

English Learner (EL) Programming

District-Wide Commitments



We will provide meaningful access to high-quality instruction and resources for English Learners, including differentiated supports for academic content using strategies to increase English language acquisition.



We will provide instruction and support that target each student's individual needs through an asset-based lens.



EL teachers will have clear strategies that provide structured opportunities for students to produce oral and written language.



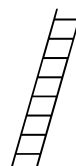
Content teachers will provide multiple representations of concepts, sentence frames, differentiated texts, and vocabulary instruction with an explicit focus on academic language and opportunities for student-to-student interaction.



We will assist students and families in the use of technology tools used in ISD191, first incorporating technology that students and families know, and slowly introducing new resources as students become comfortable.



We will use formative assessments and progress monitoring tools to identify strengths and areas of growth.



We will design short, clear assignments that allow for feedback and align to larger learning targets and grade level standards.



We will provide contact information for teachers, administrators, support staff, Cultural Liaisons, and interpreters so that families can communicate their questions and concerns in a direct and efficient manner.

What is the English Learner (EL) program?



The English Language (EL) program in District 191 is an education program for the instruction of students to achieve English proficiency in the areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing across all content areas including:

- Social Language
- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

The program is taught by licensed EL teachers who work with students during the day to support language acquisition.

What does EL service look like for students?

Small Group Instruction



A group of students with similar language levels and goals work together with an EL teacher.

Co-Taught Classes



An EL teacher and a classroom teacher provide instruction at the same time focusing on proficiency in both academic standards and language development.

Sheltered Courses



Students in grades 6th-12th may enroll in content courses with students at similar language levels. These courses are taught by an EL teacher.

Proficiency Focused

EL teachers focus on the English language development of each individual student to ensure full proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking as measured by the annual ACCESS assessment. Students progress through 6 levels of language proficiency.

How is student growth towards English proficiency measured?

ACCESS Levels

1 Entering

2 Emerging

3 Developing

4 Expanding

5 Bridging

6 Reaching

Students take an annual language proficiency assessment in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This assessment measures growth towards proficiency in the language of English. Students progress through 6 levels of proficiency.

When will my student exit EL services?

Students will exit EL programming when they reach a qualifying score on the ACCESS assessment. A score that qualifies a student for program exit demonstrates that a student no longer needs EL service to be successful in academic content areas.

The required score to exit EL service is a composite level score of a 4.5 or above, with three or more domains above a level of 3.5. The composite score is a combination of all four domains (reading, writing, speaking, listening). Students will be notified of a qualifying exit score in the month of September.

How is my child identified for English Learner (EL) services?

1 Minnesota Language Survey

Upon enrollment, the Minnesota Language Survey is completed which determines which languages the student consistently uses. If a language other than English is selected, the student will be screened to determine if they are eligible to receive EL services.

2 English Language Proficiency Testing

Students that have marked that they use a language other than or in addition to English will take a short assessment to determine their English proficiency level. This assessment is given by a licensed EL teacher. If the student's score indicates that support in learning the language of English would be beneficial, the student can enroll in EL program services.

3 Parent Notification & EL Service Begins

Parents receive a letter notification of their student's qualifying score for EL service. Parents have the right to opt out of services for their child by filling out a written waiver. If a waiver is not signed, a licensed EL teacher will begin supporting your child in English language development in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This service could occur in a small group or 1:1 setting, co-teaching, or in a sheltered course.

4 ACCESS testing and Service

Students take the ACCESS assessment each year. Upon receiving the results, the student will either continue EL service or exit out of EL service. A student's continuation of EL service means that they would continue to benefit from receiving targeted instruction in their English language development. A student exiting services means that they have reached a level of English proficiency in which they no longer need support in learning the language of English to be successful in their content area classes.