

Tuscaloosa City School's Comprehensive English Learner District Plan

Each Local Education Agency (LEA) in Alabama is required to develop and implement a Comprehensive English Learner (EL) District Plan in accordance with Section 3116 of Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This plan outlines how the LEA, The Tuscaloosa City Schools (TCS), will serve students who are identified as English Learners (ELs) and immigrant students when one or more students need language support.

The TCS ESL District Plan addresses all components of the ESL program across all grade levels and in every school within the district. It provides clear guidance so that all staff understand their roles and responsibilities in implementing the ESL program. The plan also includes the procedures, processes, and forms used to carry out required services and ensure compliance.

To support compliance and review by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), TCS developed our Comprehensive ESL District Plan using the state-provided template found at the end of the compliance checklist. When developing or revising the plan, TCS references the EL Policy and Procedures Manual developed by the ALSDE, which provides detailed guidance on requirements for serving English Learners.

TCS Assurances:

- TCS has consulted with teachers, school administrators, parents, and when appropriate, community organizations and institutions of higher education during the development of the plan.
- All teachers providing language instruction educational programs for English Learners using federal funds are fluent in English and demonstrate strong written and oral communication skills.
- All schools within TCS are compliant with federal and state requirements for serving English Learners.
- Individuals serving as translators or interpreters are fluent in the language in which they are providing services.
- English Learners have equal access to all appropriate programs and services and are selected for participation using the same criteria as other students.
- The TCS has a formal process that allows parents to waive Title III supplemental services for their child.

TCS Educational Goals:

- English Learners develop proficiency in English as quickly and effectively as possible so they can perform at the same academic level as their native English-speaking peers and have equal access to understandable instruction in all academic areas and meaningful participation in all district programs.
- English Learners, within a reasonable period of time, demonstrate mastery and increased English proficiency of the same rigorous College and Career Readiness Standards required of all students, both in the classroom and on state and district assessments.
- Teachers and administrators understand the unique language development needs of English Learners and actively work to provide meaningful instruction, appropriate support, and equitable access to learning.
- Families of students whose primary language is not English have equal access to participate in their child's education. This includes providing clear communication in a language and format families understand, sharing timely updates on their child's language development and academic progress, and offering opportunities for family engagement and continued learning.

These goals are centered on ensuring equitable educational opportunities for students from non-English language backgrounds. The ESL Program provides each EL the opportunity to be successful in all academic areas and to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing proficiency in order to be successful in all classes. For further information or support, please contact the ESL Specialist assigned to your child's school.