

EDUCATION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The Governing Board intends to provide English learners with challenging curriculum and instruction that develop proficiency in English as rapidly and effectively as possible while facilitating student achievement in the district's regular course of study.

English learners shall be provided English language development instruction targeted to their English proficiency level and aligned with state content standards. The district's program shall be based on sound instructional theory and adequately supported in order to assist students in accessing the full educational program.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all staff employed to teach English learners possess the appropriate authorization from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage parent and community involvement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of English language development programs. In addition, to support students' English language development, the Superintendent or designee may provide an adult literacy program for parents/guardians and community members that leads to English fluency.

Identification and Assessment

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain procedures that provide for the accurate identification of English learners and an assessment of their proficiency and needs in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English.

Once identified as an English learner, a student shall be annually assessed for language proficiency until he/she is reclassified based on criteria specified in administrative regulation.

English learners' academic achievement in English language arts, mathematics, science, and any additional subject required by law shall be assessed using the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. As necessary, the test shall be administered with allowable testing variations in accordance with 5 CCR 853.5 and 853.7. English learners who are in their first 12 months of attending a school in the United States shall be exempted from taking the English language arts assessment to the extent allowed by federal law. (Education Code 60603, 60640; 5 CCR 853.5, 853.7)

Placement of English Learners

Students who are English learners shall be educated through "sheltered English immersion" or "structured English immersion," as defined in law and administrative regulation, during a temporary transition period not normally intended to exceed one year. Nearly all of the classroom instruction in the district's structured English immersion program shall be in English, but with the curriculum and presentation designed for students who are learning the language. (Education Code 305-306)

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For purposes of determining the amount of instruction conducted in English in the structured English immersion classroom, "nearly all" shall be defined as follows:

1. English is the language of instruction
2. A language other than English may be used in situations regarding the health, safety or welfare of students
3. A language other than English may be used in discipline and classroom management-related matters
4. A language other than English may be used with parents to discuss school matters
5. Students may use a language other than English for in-class purposes recognizing, however, that English acquisition is the primary goal of the Sheltered English Immersion program

When an English learner has acquired a reasonable level of English proficiency as measured by any of the state-designated assessments approved by the California Department of Education, any district assessments, and/or other criteria adopted by the Board, he/she shall be transferred from a structured English immersion placement to an English language mainstream placement in which the instruction is overwhelmingly in English. (Education Code 305-306; 5 CCR 11301)

An English learner has acquired a "reasonable level of English proficiency" when he/she has achieved the following:

1. The student's overall proficiency level is Intermediate; and
 2. Proficiency in all subtests is also Intermediate or higher,
- or
1. The Student's overall proficiency level is Early Advanced or Advanced; and
 2. Proficiency in any one-subtest area is below intermediate

At any time during the school year, the parent/guardian of an English learner may have his/her child moved into an English language mainstream program. (5 CCR 11301)

Parental Exception Waivers

When allowed by law, the parent/guardian of an English learner may submit a request that his/her child be exempted from placement in a structured English immersion program and instead be placed in a class where he/she is taught English and other subjects through bilingual education techniques or other generally recognized educational methodologies permitted by law. (Education Code 310-311)

Each waiver request shall be considered on its individual merits with deference given to parental preference for student placement.

A waiver request shall be granted in accordance with law unless the principal and educational staff have determined that an alternative program would not be better suited to the student's overall educational development. (5 CCR 11309)

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If the Superintendent or designee denies the waiver request, he/she shall provide a written justification to the parent/guardian describing the reasons for the denial. A parent/guardian may appeal the decision in writing to the Board. The Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting. The Board may decide not to hear the appeal, in which case the Superintendent's decision shall be final. If the Board hears the appeal, the Superintendent shall send the Board's decision to the parent/guardian within seven working days.

Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 11310, any parent/guardian who applies for a waiver may request that the SBE review the district's guidelines or procedures. The SBE shall review the guidelines only to make a determination as to whether the guidelines comply with 5 CCR 11309. In addition, the SBE may request that the Board submit the guidelines for review.

Program Evaluation

To evaluate the effectiveness of the district's educational program for English learners, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board, at least annually, regarding:

1. Progress of English learners towards proficiency in English
2. The number and percentage of English learners reclassified as fluent English proficient
3. The number and percentage of English learners who are or are at risk of being classified as long-term English learners in accordance with Education Code 313.1
4. The achievement of English learners on standards-based tests in core curricular areas
5. Progress toward any other goals for English learners identified in the district's LCAP
6. A comparison of current data with data from at least the previous year.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

300-340 English language education

430-446 English Learner and Immigrant Pupil Federal Conformity Act

33050 State Board of Education waiver authority

44253.1-44253.11 Qualifications for teaching English learners

48985 Notices to parents in language other than English

51101-51101.1 Rights of parents

52130-52135 Impacted Languages Act of 1984

52160-52178 Bilingual Bicultural Act

60200.7 Suspension of state instructional materials adoptions

60605.87 Supplemental instructional materials, English language development

60810-60812 Assessment of language development

62005.5 Continuation of advisory committee after program sunsets

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11300-11316 English learner education

11510-11517 California English Language Development Test

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UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1701-1705 Equal Educational Opportunities Act

6312 Local education agency plans

6801-6871 Title III, Language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students

7012 Parental notification

COURT DECISIONS

Valeria G. v. Wilson, (2002) 307 F.3d 1036

California Teachers Association v. State Board of Education et al., (9th Circuit, 2001) 271 F.3d 1141

McLaughlin v. State Board of Education, (1999) 75 Cal.App.4th 196

Teresa P. et al v. Berkeley Unified School District et al, (1989) 724 F.Supp. 698

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 40 (2000)

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