

BP 6174 BILINGUAL-BICULTURAL EDUCATION/ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

English Language Learners Program and Plan of Service

In accordance with the School Board's mission to provide a quality educational program to all students, students who are English language learners (ELL) will be identified, assessed and provided appropriate services, which may include bilingual/bicultural or English as a second language instruction. In addition, the district shall provide an appropriate planned instructional program for identified students whose dominant language is not English. The purpose of the program is to increase the English proficiency of eligible students so that they can meet the same challenging academic standards that all students are expected to meet.

The district shall submit an annual plan of service if eight or more ELL students are enrolled in a single school. The plan of service shall provide:

5. A statement of the district's educational goals and instructional methodology;
6. The district's plan of identification of all students who are or who may be ELL students, including the use of a state-approved assessment for identification of English language proficiency;
7. The district's procedure for assessing the educational progress of ELL students;
8. The district's program of services and instructional model for ELL students;
9. An identification of instructional staff and educational resources;
10. The district's process for monitoring the academic progress of former ELL students for two years after they are no longer identified as ELL students;
11. The district's program evaluation that addresses the effectiveness of the program in meeting students' English-language development needs, in achieving student academic progress goals, and reflecting any identified need for program modification; and Parent and community involvement.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement and supervise an ELL program that ensures appropriate ELL instruction and complies with federal and state laws and regulations. Students shall have access to and be encouraged to participate in all academic and extracurricular activities of the district

Students in limited-English proficiency programs shall receive instruction in the core curriculum through their primary language when possible and appropriate in order to sustain academic progress. Academic instruction provided in English shall, whenever necessary, be specially designed and presented so as to facilitate complete

understanding of the total academic content. Students shall also receive instruction which promotes positive self-concepts and cross-cultural understanding.

(cf. 6141.3 - Multicultural Education)

Students who are taught core academic subjects in non-English-speaking classes shall spend as much time as possible in classrooms with students who speak fluent English.

The ELL program shall be designed to provide instruction that meets each student's individual needs, based on assessment of English proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Adequate content area support shall be provided while the student is learning English, to assure achievement of academic standards. Students participating in ELL programs shall be required, with accommodations, to meet established academic standards and graduation requirements adopted by the School Board.

Identification and Placement

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain procedures which provide for the careful identification, assessment and placement of students of limited English proficiency in accordance with state regulations and the district's service plan. On an annual basis, the district shall administer a state- approved assessment for identification of English language proficiency to all students who may have limited English proficiency, but who have not already been identified as ELL students.

An individual student's participation in the bilingual/bicultural program is voluntary on the part of the parent/guardian.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Standardized Assessment

Students identified as limited English proficient shall participate, either with or without an accommodation, in statewide student assessments. The Superintendent or designee shall appoint a team that includes, if practicable, a teacher with experience in teaching students with limited English proficiency to determine the necessary accommodations for students with limited English proficiency. "Accommodations" include a change in the manner in which a test included in the statewide student assessment system is given to a student, and that does not alter what is measured by the assessment. The team will document the accommodation decision.

Reassignment

Students of limited English proficiency shall be reassigned as fluent-English proficient when they have acquired the English language skills of comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing necessary to receive instruction and achieve academic progress in English only, at a level substantially equivalent to that of students of the same age or grade whose primary language is English. A student will remain eligible for services until obtaining assessment scores as established by law.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide subsequent monitoring and support of reassigned students.

Parent/Guardian and Community Involvement

The School Board recognizes the need to involve parents/guardians and community members in the development, evaluation and improvement of district programs. The Superintendent or designee shall inform and involve parents/guardians and community members as required by law.

The district shall notify parents of students qualifying for ELL programs regarding the instructional program and parental options, as required by law. The notice should state the reasons for identifying the student as an English language learner, including the student's level of proficiency and how the district determined that level. The student's overall academic achievement should also be included in the notice. The notice must describe the ELL program's instructional methods and explain specific exit requirements and how the student will transition from the program. Finally, the notice shall advise parents of their right to remove the child from the program, to choose an alternative program if available, and to obtain assistance in choosing a program. Parents will be regularly apprised of their student's progress. Communications with parents shall be in the language understood by the parents, whenever possible.

(cf. 1220 - Citizens Advisory Committees)

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the annual evaluation of bilingual- bicultural education programs in conformance with state and federal regulations.

When evaluating the adequacy of bilingual-bicultural education, the School Board shall consider data which indicates the effectiveness of the programs in teaching English to students and in contributing to their academic achievement.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.30.400 Bilingual-bicultural education

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 06.775 Assessment of a student with limited English proficiency

4 AAC 34.010-4 AAC 34.090 Bilingual-bicultural education

UNITED STATES CODE

20 U.S.C. §§ 1702-03, Denial of Educational Opportunity Prohibited

20 U.S.C. § 6811, et. seq., English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95 (December 10, 2015))

Castenda v. Pickard 648 F.2d 989 (5th Cir. 1981)

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

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