



Poland Local Schools

District English Learner Plan

Overview

The Poland School District serves several English Language Learners through tutoring services, computer-based instruction, and differentiated classroom instruction. Support is provided through collaboration between general education teachers and a Teaching English to Speaker of Other Languages to support English language learning. Poland Local Schools is a member of the Title III Consortium of the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio (ESCEO).

Procedures for Identifying EL Students

1. A Language Usage Survey is completed as a part of the registration packet for each student per the Guidelines for Identifying English Learners from the Ohio Department of Education.
2. If the Language Usage Survey indicates a language other than English is spoken at home that student is assessed in his/her ability to read, write, speak, listen and comprehend in English, through an assessment called The Ohio English Language Proficiency Screener (OELPS).
3. If a student scores proficient in all five areas, he or she is not considered an English Learner. If a student scores below proficient in any one or more of the five areas, he or she is considered an English Learner (EL).
4. If a student is identified as an EL, the school determines how services will be delivered, through collaboration between the EL tutor and the student's teachers. The programs/services delivered are research-based positive practices.
5. The school notifies and seeks permission of parents or guardians whose children will participate in EL services.
6. Schools determine if students who are EL are eligible for accommodations on statewide achievement tests, according to state law.
7. Schools use a statewide test of English Learners, the OELPS to screen for eligibility and the OELPA to test proficiency.

Students are then designated as English Learners(EL) (if they score less than Proficient in all areas on the Ohio Screener or "Not EL" (if they score totally proficient). A student must score at the Proficient level in all four domains in order to be considered "Not EL". The district EMIS Coordinator reports the student's EL designation (L, S, Y, or M).

LEP Status

- **N No** - The student is not Limited to English Proficient.
- **Y Yes** - Limited English Proficient student who has been enrolled in U.S. schools for more than 360 school days (or the equivalent of two school years). OR Previously exempted from taking the spring administration of either of the State's English language arts assessments (reading or writing).
- **L LEP** – Enrolled in U.S. Schools for the First Time. A recently arrived Limited English Proficient student who has been enrolled in US schools for no more than 180 school days
- **M LEP** – The ODE considers English learners who score a combination of 5's and 4's in three domains and a score of 3 in one domain as Trial Mainstream (M category in EMIS). Ohio is no longer using the former "Proficient Trial Mainstream" as a path towards exiting from the EL program. Trial Mainstream students will remain in the program until they reach "Proficient" status.
- **S LEP** – Enrolled in U.S. Schools for 2nd Year. A recently arrived Limited English Proficient student who has been enrolled in US schools for more than 180 school days and less than 360 days (or the equivalent of two school years).

Definition of English Learner (EL)

A child who is identified as an English Learner is enrolled in an elementary or secondary school; has a native/home language other than English, whether born in the U.S. or another country; and has such difficulty speaking, reading, writing or understanding English that the student may be unable to perform well enough in class or on state tests to meet expected state standards for achievement (Source: ODE Proficiency Rules).

Educational Theory and Practice

Direct instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL) is provided by certified teachers who follow Ohio's English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards and sound theory & practice in conjunction with district-approved materials. ESL instruction is implemented as either a pull-out ESL class or small group depending on the needs of the student.

Two Types of Language

- **Basic Interpersonal Communicative Skills (BICS):** This is social language and develops in 1-3 years. This is the day-to-day language needed to interact with other people. ELLs use BICS on the playground, in the cafeteria, on the bus. This language is context-based.
- **Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP):** This is academic language and takes 5-77 years to develop. There are general academic words and content-specific words. Academic language is context-reduced, especially in the upper grades.

EMIS Program Code

- "English as a Second Language (ESL) Program" (235023)
Also referred to as English Language Development (ELD), ESL is a program of techniques, methodology, and special curriculum designed to teach English learner students English language skills, which may include listening, speaking, reading, writing, study skills, content vocabulary, and cultural orientation. ESL instruction is usually in English with little use of native language.

Classifying Students/Parent Notification

If a student is identified and assessed as an EL and determined to be eligible for services, the District will send written notice to the student's parent. Such notice shall be provided within thirty (30) days of the start of the school year or within two weeks of assessment (if the student is not identified prior to the beginning of the school year) and include information regarding language level, program placement, hours of service per week, along with permission to service.

Criteria for Exiting EL Program

To be exited from EL programs in Ohio, students need to demonstrate the ability to understand, speak, read and write the English language at a level in which they are able to:

1. Achieve successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is in English;
2. Meaningfully participate in academic assessments in English; and
3. Participate fully in society in the United States.

A student has attained the required level of English proficiency to be exited from a district's EL program when the student:

- Obtains a composite score of 3 on the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment.