

SECTION 557: PROGRAMS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The Board recognizes that within the district there may be students whose primary language is not English. With that in mind, the board shall provide appropriate transition services for district students who possess limited or no command of the English language. The purpose of these services will be to develop English language skills that will enable students to function successfully in an all English classroom and complete the required curriculum.

These services shall include the following elements: identification of students who are English language learners, curricular and instructional modifications, and assessment of progress. The degree of modification and the duration and type of services shall be determined individually and shall be based on the need of each student.

If a sufficient number of the students identified with limited English proficiency are of the same language group to meet statutory requirements; the Board shall establish and implement a bilingual-bicultural education program as required by the law.

The District shall assess the English proficiency and academic progress of ELL students in accordance with legal requirements and established District procedures. Decisions regarding the administration of state-required tests to ELL students shall be made on a case-by-case basis. Testing accommodations may be made based on student needs, provided the validity of the test is maintained. The District shall administer state-required tests to an ELL student unless a determination has been made that the results of the test, with allowable accommodations made for the student as needed, will not be a valid and reliable indicator of the student's academic knowledge and skills. Any ELL student exempted from taking a state-required test shall be administered an alternative assessment approved by the Department of Public Instruction. The results of both state-required tests and alternate assessments shall be consistent with District policies in making instructional, promotion and graduation decisions. Test results may not be used as the sole criterion in re-classifying an ELL student from a bilingual-bicultural education program or in determining grade promotion, eligibility for courses or programs, eligibility for graduation or eligibility for participation in postsecondary education opportunities. Exemption of an ELL student from taking a state-required test may also not be used as the sole criterion for making such determinations.

Parents/guardians of ELL students shall be notified of student testing arrangements and of educational programs and services available to help their children improve their English language skills and academic achievement. These notifications shall be made consistent with legal requirements and in such manner as to ensure that the student's parent/guardian understands them.

LEGAL REF: PI 13 Wisconsin Administrative Code
Sections 118.13, 118.30(2), Chapter 115, Subchapter VII Wisconsin Statutes

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