

Description of EL Program

English as a Second Language (EL) is an intensive instructional program designed to develop proficiency in the comprehension, listening, speaking, reading and writing of the English language. Student eligibility for the program is determined through the administration of an English language proficiency test, and parent permission is required for entrance into the program.

If a child demonstrates limited English proficiency on the assessment, he or she will be eligible for enrollment in the appropriate language program: bilingual education or English as a Second Language (EL). The goal of the EL program is to enable English language learners to become competent in the understanding, reading, listening, speaking and writing of the English language through the development of literacy and academic skills in grade level content areas.

Their knowledge of the English language is measured by the OELPS and the OELPA, which are state tests given by a certified test administrator, as soon as the student arrives in our district. Even if the student and parents decline our services, the student will still have to take the state test (OELPA).

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

One of the approaches that a school has to ensure that EL students receive equal educational opportunity is to provide them with bilingual instruction. Bilingual education operates on two basic premises:

- 1) Students are more likely to learn English if they understand what they are being taught.
- 2) Students who are not proficient in English will not fall behind their English-speaking peers if they are able to continue learning subject matter in their native languages.

There are a variety of models of bilingual education. In some programs, the students may learn to read first in their native language and then in English. In other programs, EL students only use their native language orally in the classroom. The focus of the program is on teaching them to read, write and speak English. The important element of a bilingual program is that both the students' native language and English are used as means of instruction.

PULL-OUT ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (EL) CLASSES

The school district provides EL instruction to EL students as a means of helping them acquire the English skills they need to be successful in school. In Ohio, EL programs are used either as the principal component of the special language instructional program or as a complement to bilingual education. If the EL class is the main component of the program, it is recommended

that, when possible, native language support services be provided to supplement the EL instruction, at least for students whose English is very limited.

EL classes focus on teaching formal English grammar or on promoting natural communication activities (free conversation, games, and discussions on certain topics). Reading and writing are practiced as well as oral communication skills in English.

IN-CLASS OR INCLUSION INSTRUCTION

In this approach, EL students are together with their native-English speaking peers in the same classroom, but an EL or bilingual education specialist is available in the classroom to support the EL students. For example, the EL or bilingual education specialist provides guidance to the EL students as they are working on a group project or individual assignment.

INDIVIDUAL TUTORING

Another response that might be considered when there are very few EL students enrolled in a school district is individual or small-group tutoring sessions. Tutors may range from trained professional EL or bilingual education teachers to volunteers who work under the supervision of specially trained teachers. The tutoring sessions may focus on promoting basic English communication skills or focus on English for academic purposes.

If the parent does not agree with the district providing these services to the student, they can decline the services at any time.

Goals

Increase EL students' English language production and peer interaction

Explicitly teach English language vocabulary and structures.

Build on ELs' Background Knowledge to Increase Comprehension

Increase EL Parent Involvement

Increase writing, reading, listening and speaking skills

