

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY

CODE: 342.63

SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE OF ADOPTION: 12/15/08

PROGRAMS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The School Board recognizes that within the District there are students whose primary language is not English. With that in mind, the Board shall provide appropriate services for District students who possess limited or no command of the English language. The purpose of these services will be to help students acquire English language skills that will enable them to function successfully in an all English classroom and to meet established academic standards.

Students shall be identified as English language learners (ELL) through a home language survey given upon enrollment. Once ELL students are identified, their English proficiency shall be assessed; they shall be classified according to their English proficiency level and placed in an appropriate educational program. This shall be done in accordance with state requirements and established District procedures.

The degree of curricular and instructional modification for ELL students, type of support services and their duration shall be determined individually and be based on student need. ELL students shall be served through the use of English as a Second Language teachers and bilingual resource specialists. Wherever possible, the student's native language shall be used to support their acquisition of English. If a sufficient number of the ELL students identified are of the same language group to meet statutory requirements, the Board shall establish and implement a bilingual-bicultural education program as required by state law.

The District shall assess the 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. 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 used 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 post-secondary 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 assessment 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.: Sections 115.96 Wisconsin Statutes
115.97
118.13
118.30
PI 13, Wisconsin Administrative Code
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001