



English Language Learners Frequently Asked Questions 2012-2013

What is the correct term for students whose first language is not English and who are not yet proficient in academic English?

Limited English Proficient (LEP), English Language Learner (ELL), and English Learner (EL) are all used to describe our students. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) is another term that is used to describe our student group.

What is a school district's responsibility for educating ELs?

A school district must offer an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program until that student is proficient in English and can be successful in the mainstream classroom without additional language support services.

What constitutes an ESOL program?

An ESOL program is simply an ESOL endorsed teacher (or a teacher working toward obtaining the ESOL endorsement) providing language support services to the EL.

What is the ESL endorsement?

The ESL endorsement is an attachment to an existing license, not a stand-alone certificate. Depending on the issuing institution of higher education, it requires 15 or 18 credit hours plus a passing score on the PRAXIS II. The PRAXIS-only option is also available.

What if a school district only has a few ELs?

If only one EL is enrolled in the school district, the district must provide ESOL services for that student.

How much time per day should the EL receive ESOL services?

Ideally, the EL should be with an ESOL endorsed teacher throughout the day, with the teacher modifying the content to make it comprehensible to the EL. Language demands of the curriculum should be addressed for ELLs, background information provided, explicit vocabulary instruction provided, etc. Content

teachers should be aware of the needs of ELs and adjust instruction accordingly.

What if a school district does not provide ESOL services to the EL?

This is a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and that district could be cited by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

How does a school district identify a student as an EL?

Every student must complete a Home language Survey. If a language other than English is indicated on the survey, then the student must be assessed for English proficiency. Students in grades K-12 are assessed using the LAS-Links, IPT, LPTS, or KELPA-P. Pre-K students may be assessed using the Pre-LAS or the Pre-IPT. If the student scores below "fluent/proficient" in any domain on the English language proficiency assessment, that student is identified as an EL and must receive ESOL services.

If the student speaks English fluently, does the school still need to assess his/her level of English proficiency?

Yes. It is possible for a person to speak and understand a language perfectly well, but not have literacy or academic skills in that language.

Is there funding available for ELs?

Yes, both state and federal.

For further information, please contact:

Melanie Manares
ESOL/Bilingual Education and Title III
Visiting International Teachers
Kansas State Department of Education
120 SE 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7929
mmanares@ksde.org

