

Overview of the English Learner (EL) Program in South Washington County Schools

Description

The English Learner (EL) Program is designed to serve students whose first language is not English and who need to develop further English language skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The program provides appropriate English language instruction to help students succeed in academic subjects, to meet academic achievement standards for grade promotion, and to achieve proficiency in English.

Students remain in the EL program until they reach proficiency in academic English. On average, it takes more than three years for English Learners to exit the program depending on individual circumstances. English Learners in South Washington County schools continue to graduate from high school at a rate of 81.6% which exceeds the federal graduation target rate of 80%.

EL Program Components

The EL program offers two types of service: Direct Instruction and Monitor Status. In Direct Instruction, the student works directly with the EL teacher and receives instruction in the following areas:

- Speaking and listening comprehension
- Reading and writing
- Language development in academic content areas

Monitor Status is designed for students who have reached a high level of English proficiency, which indicates that they no longer require direct EL instruction. However, the EL teacher will continue to monitor the student's progress. During this period, the student may reenter Direct Instruction at any time.

Exit from EL Program

Students will be considered for exiting the EL program based on several factors including:

- State language proficiency test scores (ACCESS)
- Standardized reading assessment scores (MCA and MAP)
- The ability to function successfully in mainstream classes

Regular Instructional Programs

No English Learner instruction or support is offered in the regular instruction program once students have become fully proficient in English. The instructional goal is to meet grade appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation.

Special Education/EL

Students with disabilities will have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). If students need EL service, that will be included on the IEP.

Parent Involvement

We welcome parent involvement. Parents are encouraged to call or email their student's EL teacher if they have questions or concerns. EL teachers are involved in scheduled parent-teacher conference and parents may request additional consultations as needed.