

Title III, ELL

Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides Federal financial support to state and local educational agencies to supplement English language instruction in order to ensure that all English Language Learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic language proficiency in English, and meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards as all Mississippi students are expected to meet.

Definition

By definition, an English Language Learner is someone who: was not born in the U.S. and whose native language is not English; or is a Native American or an Alaskan native who comes from a home where a language other than English is commonly spoken; and who, for the above reasons, has difficulty using English in school to the extent that he or she is unable to learn successfully in classrooms where English is the language of instruction.

Identification of Students

As part of the registration packet, Lafayette County School District includes a Home Language Survey, which must be completed for every student. The survey contains: the first language the student learned to speak, the language the student speaks most often, and what language is most often spoken at the student's home. The completed survey is kept as part of the students' permanent record/cumulative file.

The Home Language Survey is used as an initial indicator in the process of identifying English Language Learners. If the parent provides information citing the student's first language is that other than English, the school counselor, classroom teacher or the ELL teacher will meet with and interview the student. This initial interview provides some measure of how well a student understands the English language. The ELL teacher will then administer a placement test, the W-APT which is a part of the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing to determine the student's language level. Initial testing is completed within 30 days at the beginning of the school year or within two weeks of enrollment thereafter.

Parental Notification and Participation

As with all students, parental involvement of ELL students is of utmost importance. It is the district's desire to make the entrance of an ELL student and their parents into the schools as pleasant and helpful as possible. To the extent possible, information to parents will be given in their native language that describes the district, its ELL identification process and programming, and the procedures for accepting or refusing ELL services. Parents are also invited to all

school events and interpreters will be provided as needed or as deemed necessary. Each school provides activities to parents to support this expectation. An interpreter is provided as needed and as much as is practicable to evaluate translated documents and communicate with parents effectively.

Program of Services

Lafayette County School District provides programming to teach English Language Learners language skills, which may include listening, speaking, reading, writing, study skills, content vocabulary and cultural orientation. Lafayette County School District offers a “pullout” program.

In the “pullout” program, ELL students are taught in mainstreamed classes, which allows for them to receive instruction in content classes in English. Using the professional development activities, resources, and supplies provided, content teachers will recognize that, just like English speaking students, ELL students come from diverse backgrounds which include varied learning styles and rates, and language and cultural differences. Because of this, collaboration with the ELL teacher is essential in meeting the needs of each individual ELL student. By recognizing these needs, collaborating with the ELL teacher, and allowing students to actively participate in classroom activities and communicate with their English speaking peers, ELL students will be a part of a language-rich environment that will not only assist them in developing English proficiency, but will hold them to the same high academic standards as the other students in the class.

For further information regarding Title III services please contact your child’s school or Title III coordinator at Lafayette County School District Central Office.