



Book	Policy Manual
Section	6000 INSTRUCTION
Title	Bilingual Bicultural Education - Limited English Proficiency Education
Code	BP 6174
Status	Second Reading and Action
Cross References	<a href="#">BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities</a> <a href="#">BP 1230 - Advisory Committees</a>
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In accordance with the Board's philosophy to provide a quality educational program to all students, students who are English language learners (ELL) will be identified, assessed and provided appropriate services in accordance with the school district's approved plan of service with DEED. The purpose of the program is to increase the English proficiency of eligible students so that they can attain the academic standards adopted by the Board and achieve academic success.

The Superintendent or designee will implement and supervise an ELL program that ensures appropriate ELL instruction and complies with federal and state laws and regulations. Students will have access to and be encouraged to participate in all academic and extracurricular activities of the district.

The School Board intends to offer ELL education programs which develop each student's fluency in English as effectively and efficiently as possible. To accomplish this goal, English development lessons should be tailored to the students' varying levels of English proficiency. The Board will adopt an educational service plan for bilingual-bicultural education programs in accordance with law.

Academic instruction provided in English will, whenever necessary, be specially designed and presented so as to facilitate complete understanding of the total academic content. Students will, when possible, also receive instruction which promotes positive self-concepts and cross-cultural understanding.

Students who are taught core academic subjects in non-English-speaking classes will spend as much time as possible in classrooms with students who speak fluent English.

The ELL program will be designed to provide instruction that meets each student's individual needs, based on assessment of English proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Adequate content area support will be provided while the student is learning English, to assure achievement of academic standards. Students participating in ELL programs will be required, with accommodations, to meet established academic standards and graduation requirements adopted by the Board.

### **Identification and Placement**

The Superintendent or designee will maintain procedures which provide for the careful identification, assessment and placement of students who qualify as English learners in accordance with state regulations and the District's service plan. On an annual basis, the District will administer an assessment of English proficiency to students who are or may be eligible for services.

An individual student's participation in the limited English proficiency program is voluntary on the part of the parent/guardian.

## **Standardized Assessment**

Students identified as English Learners will participate, either with or without an accommodation, in statewide student assessments. The Superintendent will appoint a team that includes, whenever possible, a teacher with experience in teaching students with limited English proficiency to determine the necessary accommodations for students with limited English proficiency. "Accommodations" include a change in the manner in which a test included in the statewide student assessment system is given to a student, and that does not alter what is measured by the assessment. The team will document the accommodation decision.

## **Reassignment**

Students identified as English Learners will be reassigned as fluent-English proficient when they have acquired the English language skills of comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing necessary to receive instruction and achieve academic progress in English only, at a level substantially equivalent to that of students of the same age or grade whose primary language is English. A student will remain eligible for services until obtaining assessment scores as established by law.

The Superintendent or designee will provide subsequent monitoring and support of reassigned students.

## **Parent/Guardian and Community Involvement**

The Board recognizes the need to involve parents/guardians and community members in the development, evaluation and improvement of District programs. The Superintendent or designee will inform and involve parents/guardians and community members as required by law.

The District will notify parents of students qualifying for ELL programs regarding the instructional program and parental options, as required by law. The notice should state the reasons for identifying the student as an English language learner, including the student's level of proficiency and how the District determined that level. The student's overall academic achievement should also be included in the notice. The notice must describe the ELL program's instructional methods and explain how the student will transition from the program. Finally, the notice will advise parents of their right to remove the child from the program, to choose an alternative program if available, and to obtain assistance in choosing a program. Parents will be regularly apprised of their student's progress. Communications with parents will be in the language understood by the parents, whenever possible.

## **Program Evaluation**

The Superintendent or designee will establish procedures for the annual evaluation of the bilingual-bicultural education programs in conformance with state and federal regulations.

When evaluating the adequacy of limited English proficiency education, the Board will consider data which indicates the effectiveness of the programs in teaching English to students and in contributing to their academic achievement.

### *Legal Reference:*

#### *ALASKA STATUTES*

*14.30.400 Bilingual-bicultural education*

#### *ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE*

*4 AAC 06.775 Assessment of a student with limited English proficiency*

*4 AAC 34.010-4 AAC 34.090 Bilingual-bicultural education*

#### *UNITED STATES CODE*

*20 U.S.C. §§1702-1703*

*Bilingual Education Act. 20 U.S.C. §§ 7401 et seq. as amended by the English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act, Title III, §§ 3001-3304 of HR1*

*Castenda v. Pickard 648 F.2d 989 (5th Cir. 1981)*

*Teresa P. et al v. Berkeley Unified School District et al, 724 F. Supp. 717, (N.D. Cal. 1989)*