

POLICY

Board of Education Bernards Township

**File Code: M 2423
BILINGUAL AND ESL EDUCATION**

Our Board of Education will provide programs of bilingual education, English as a second language (ESL), and English language services for pupils of limited English proficiency as required by law and rules of the State Board of Education. Pupils of limited English proficiency (LEP) are those pupils whose native language is other than English and who have such difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language as to be denied the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English.

IDENTIFICATION OF LEP PUPILS

1. The Superintendent's designee will determine the native language of each LEP pupil when the pupil enrolls in our School District.
2. The Superintendent's designee will:
 - Maintain a census indicating all pupils identified whose native language is other than English, and
 - Report annually to the New Jersey Department of Education as part of the Fall Report, the number of all pupils whose native language is other than English, and of that group, the number who are LEP pupils.
3. The Board approved screening process shall be conducted by the ESL or other certified teacher who will distinguish those pupils who are fluent English speakers from those whose English speech and comprehension are affected by language deficiency.
4. The English language proficiency of all pupils whose native language is other than English will be determined by means of the administration of an English language proficiency test assessing the level of reading English, reviewing the previous academic performance of English, and reviewing the input of the teaching staff members responsible for the educational program for the limited English proficient pupils. Pupils who do not meet the New Jersey Department of Education standard on a State Department approved language proficiency test and who have at least one other indicator are pupils of limited English proficiency. The ESL teacher shall also use age appropriate assessment instruments to identify the English language proficiency and readiness of pre-school LEP students to determine their individual language development needs.
5. A New Jersey Department of Education approved language proficiency test will be administered to all limited English proficient pupils when they enter our School District to determine their level of English language proficiency.

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BILINGUAL PROGRAMS FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT PUPILS

1. All pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade LEP pupils enrolled in our District will receive required courses and support services outlined below to prepare LEP pupils to meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards for high school graduation:
 - English language services, in addition to the regular school program, designed to improve English language proficiency of LEP pupils whenever there is one or more, but fewer than ten LEP pupils enrolled with the schools of our District.
 - An ESL program that provides up to two periods of ESL instruction per week based on pupil needs whenever there are ten or more LEP pupils enrolled within the schools of our District –
 - The ESL curriculum will address the most current version of “WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards” and will be developed and adopted to address the instructional needs of LEP students.
 - The ESL curriculum will be cross-referenced to our District’s content area curricula to ensure that ESL instruction is correlated to all the content areas being taught.
 - A bilingual education program will be established whenever there are twenty or more limited English proficient pupils in any one language classification enrolled in our District.
 - LEP pupils will be provided equitable instructional opportunities to participate in all non-academic courses necessary to meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards, including health and physical education, the visual and performing arts, and career awareness programs.
 - Sufficient courses and other relevant supplemental instruction opportunities will be offered to grade nine through twelve LEP pupils to meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards for graduation. A bilingual class in a subject area will be established if there are a sufficient number of pupils. Plans for a class of this type will be developed with and approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

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- Additional programs and services will be designed to meet the special needs of eligible LEP pupils and will include, but not be limited to, remedial instruction through Title I programs, special education, school to work programs, computer training, and gifted and talented education services.
2. Appropriate instructional programs will be provided to all eligible Pre-K LEP pupils based on need according to N.J.A.C.6A:15-1.3(b). These services may include tutoring, after school programs, summer programs, and remedial services as needed by LEP students.

WAIVER PROCESS

Our School District may provide an instructional program alternative when there are twenty or more pupils eligible for the bilingual education program in grades K through twelve if our District is able to demonstrate that due to age range, grade span, and/or geographic location of eligible pupils, it would be impractical to provide a full-time bilingual program. An instructional program alternative must be established on an annual basis with the approval of the New Jersey Department of Education. An instructional program alternative, if established will be pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:15-1.5 et seq.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION APPROVAL OF BILINGUAL, ESL, AND/OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES PROGRAMS

1. Our School District's bilingual, ESL, and/or English Language Services Program plans will be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education every three years for approval. The plan will include the identification of pupils; program description; the number of certified staff hired for the program; bilingual and ESL curriculum development; evaluation design, and review process for exit. The number of LEP pupils, evaluation data (to include achievement information on ESL and data on performance of eligible LEP pupils on the fourth, eighth, and eleventh grade tests), exit date for LEP pupils enrolled in our District, and a budget for bilingual, and LEP program, and/or English Services Programs must be submitted to the Department of Education on an annual basis.
2. The program will be monitored and evaluated by the Office of Bilingual Education within the New Jersey Department of Education.

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SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Pupils enrolled in bilingual, ESL, and/or English Services Programs will have full access to educational services available to other pupils. To the extent possible, the school administration will make available supportive services to LEP pupils provided by personnel who are familiar with and knowledgeable of the unique needs and background of LEP pupils and parents.

INSERVICE TRAINING

1. Inservice training will be provided for bilingual, ESL, and mainstream teachers based on their needs; it will include instructional strategies to help LEP pupils meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards and the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards. All ESL and bilingual teachers will receive training in the use of the ESL curriculum.
2. The Professional Development Plan of the District will include the needs of bilingual and ESL teachers that should be addressed through inservice training.

CERTIFICATION OF STAFF

All teachers in these programs will hold the following certificates:

Bilingual Classes - A valid New Jersey instructional certificate with an endorsement for the appropriate grade level and/or content area, as well as an endorsement in bilingual education.

ESL Classes - A valid New Jersey instructional certificate in English as a Second Language.

English Language Services - A valid New Jersey instructional certificate.

BILINGUAL, ESL, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES PROGRAM EXIT AND REENTRY

1. All LEP pupils from Pre-K through twelfth grade must be enrolled in the bilingual, ESL, or English Services education program. LEP pupils enrolled in one of these programs will be placed in a monolingual English program when they have demonstrated readiness to function successfully in an English only program. This process will be initiated by the pupil's level of English proficiency as measured by a State Department of Education established standard on a English language proficiency test, and readiness of the pupil will be further assessed on the basis of multiple indicators which will, at a minimum, include classroom performance, the pupil's reading level in English, the judgment of the teaching staff members responsible for the educational program of the pupil, and performance on achievement tests in English according to P.L 199c.12.

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2. A parent or guardian may remove a student who is enrolled in a bilingual education program pursuant to provisions in P.L.1995c.327.
3. Pupils enrolled in the bilingual, ESL, or English Services Program will be assessed annually for exit.
4. Newly exited pupils who do not progress in the mainstream English program may be considered for reentry to bilingual and ESL programs as follows:
 - After a minimum of one half of an academic year and within two years of exit, the mainstream English classroom teacher, with the approval of the building principal, may recommend retesting.
 - A waiver of the minimum time limitation may be approved by the County Superintendent upon the request of our Superintendent, if the pupil is experiencing extreme difficulty in adjusting to the mainstream program.
 - The recommendation for retesting will be based on the teacher's judgment that the pupil is experiencing difficulties due to problems in using English as evidenced by the pupil's inability to communicate effectively with peers and adults; understand directions given by the teacher; and/or comprehend basic verbal and written materials.
 - The pupil will be tested using a different form of the test or a different language proficiency test than the one used to exit pupils.
 - If the pupil scores below the State established standard on the language proficiency test, the pupil will be reenrolled into the bilingual or ESL program.
 - When the exit review process is completed, the pupil's parents or legal guardians shall be informed by mail of the placement determination. If the parent/guardian and/or teaching staff member disagrees with the placement, he/she may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent, who will provide a written explanation for the decision within 30 school days. The complainant may appeal the Superintendent's decision in writing to the Board, which will respond in writing within 30 school days. Upon exhausting an appeal to the Board, the complainant may appeal to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6:4.

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT PUPILS

All LEP pupils must satisfy requirements for high school graduation according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 (a).

LOCATION PROGRAMS

All bilingual, ESL, and English Language programs will be conducted within classrooms approved by the County Superintendent of Schools within the regular school buildings in our District.

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

1. The Superintendent or designee will notify the parents/guardians of the LEP pupil by mail that their child has been identified as eligible for enrollment in the bilingual, ESL, and/or English language service program. The notice will inform the parents/guardians that they have the option of declining enrollment and will be provided no later than ten days after the enrollment of the pupil. The notice will also include a statement to the parents/guardians regarding the right of review and appeal. The notice will be in writing and in the language of which the child and the parents/guardians possess a primary speaking ability and in English.
2. The parents/guardians will receive progress reports on the same basis of all pupils in our School District. These reports will be in English and the native language of the parent of the pupil.
3. The district shall notify the parent(s) when students meet the exit criteria and are placed in a monolingual English program. The notice shall be in English and in the language in which the parent(s) possess a primary speaking ability.

JOINT PROGRAMS

Our School District may join with another school district on a case by case basis to provide bilingual, ESL or English language services provided approval from the County Superintendent is obtained.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Superintendent or his/her designee will provide for maximum practical involvement of parent(s) of LEP pupils in the development and review of program objectives and dissemination of information to and from Boards of Education and communities served by the bilingual, ESL, or English language services education program. If the number of students necessitates the development of a bilingual program, the

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Superintendent or his/her designee will establish a parent advisory committee on bilingual education on which the majority will be parents of pupils of limited English proficiency.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-15 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.1 et seq.

ADOPTED: November 22, 2010