



New Jersey Department of Education



Bilingual Programs in N.J. & Parents' Rights Is my child an English language learner? (Part 3 of 4 Series)

Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

Division of Educational Services

April 5, 2022



Agenda

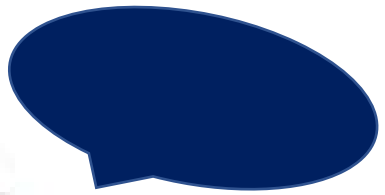


- Is my child an English language learner (ELL)?
- Parents' Rights.
- District Responsibilities.
- Resources.





Do you know what it means?





Is My Child An ELL?



Three (3)-step process:

1. Home Language Survey (HLS);
2. Records Review; and
3. Testing.

Value of the Home Language



Sustains cultural identity and connections to family.



Fosters self-esteem, sense of belonging.



Develops pride in one's own culture while developing an understanding of others.



Builds family-school partnership on respect and trust.



Sources: <https://www.cal.org/areas-of-impact/english-learners/bilingual-and-dual-language-education>; <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/dual-language-immersion-programs-boost-student-success>



Step 1: Home Language Survey



1. List all languages used in the student's home.
2. Was the first language used by the student a language other than English?
3. Does the student speak or understand a language other than English?
4. When interacting with others at home (example: parents, guardians, siblings), does the student understand or use a language other than English most of the time?
5. When interacting with others outside the home (example: friends, caregivers), does the student understand or use a language other than English most of the time?

Step 2: Records Review



Bring school records from past school(s).



Bring examples of writing from home.



Speak with teacher about child's total language use.



Have your child speak with teacher.



Step 3: Testing for Identification



- Only if Steps 1 and 2 indicate need for language testing.
- WIDA Screener or MODEL.
- 4.5 and above = Not an ELL.



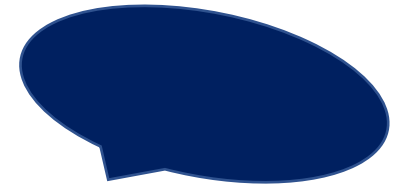
Parent Notification



- [Notification letter](#) in native language.
 - Test used.
 - English level.
 - Academic achievement level.
 - Learning Disability, if applicable.
 - Type of language assistance program.
 - Right to refuse services.
- Placement.
 - Within 30 days or 14 days.
- Continuation (annual).



In your own words . . .



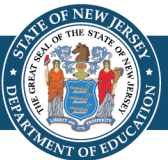
- How did the school explain to you that your child is an ELL?
- What did it mean to you?



Bilingual/Dual Language Programs



- Strengthens home language foundation and creates a bridge to English attainment.
- Promotes additive educational language program.
- Increases grade-level academic achievement.
 - Sharpens focus.
 - Boosts memory.
 - Improves comprehension.
- Establishes a path toward Seal of Biliteracy.

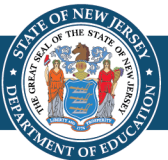




Benefits of Bilingualism



- Better school grades.
- Earn [Seal of Biliteracy](#) recognition.
- Improve decision-making
- Delay health issues of the brain.
- Increase income earnings.





Parental Consent Law of 1995



- Parents of ELLs have the **right to decline** bilingual/ESL/ELS education program services.
- Prior to this law, parents could challenge a district's decision, but could not decline services without an appeal process.
- During the first 3 years, parents can only decline services mid-year if they appeal to county superintendent.
- Must still be tested annually with ACCESS for ELLs.
- Must still conduct annual notification to parents who have refused.





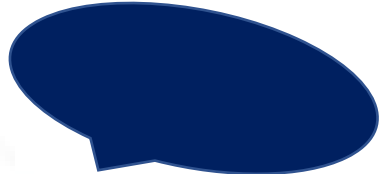
District's Responsibilities



- Ensure:
 - Immediate enrollment without barriers.
 - Understand what language services your child needs.
 - Interpreter and translator is available and maintains confidentiality.
 - Teachers have the skills and tools to teach students learning English.



Do you know what it means?





Family Engagement Resources



- WIDA [“My Child is an ELL.”](#)
- [ELL Parent Civil Rights Fact Sheet.](#)
- [Civil Rights Complaint](#) Division.



Federal Resources



- [English Learner Family Toolkit](#)
- [OELA Fact Sheet: Family-School Engagement of Families Who Are Speakers of Other Languages](#)
- [English Learner Toolkit](#)
- [Newcomer Toolkit](#)



Spanish Parent Portal





Save the Dates



NJDOE ELL Topics Bilingual Programs in N.J. & Parents Rights

- 12/07/2021 Policy (Part 1 of 4 - LEAs)
- 02/17/2022 District Strategies (Part 2 of 4 - LEAs)
- 04/05/2022 What does it mean that my child is an “ELL”? (Part 3 of 4 – Parents)
- 06/08/2022 Parent to Parent (Part 4 of 4 – Parents)



Register: <https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/events/search.php>



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