

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

Education For English Learners

BP 6174

Instruction

Note: The following policy may be revised to reflect district practice. State and federal law establish requirements for the identification, placement, and education of English learners.

Note: Proposition 58 (November 2016) amended Education Code 305-310 to authorize parents/guardians to select a language acquisition program that best suits their child and repealed Education Code 311 thereby eliminating the requirement that parents/guardians request a waiver from the district if they want to enroll their child in a program other than a structured English immersion program. See the section on "Language Acquisition Programs" below.

Note: 20 USC 6801-7014 (Title III) provide grant funds that may be used to supplement, but not supplant, funding from other sources for the purpose of ensuring that English learners attain English proficiency and meet the same challenging academic standards that are applicable to all students. During the Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) process, California Department of Education (CDE) staff will expect to see evidence that the district has complied with state and federal requirements. See the CDE web site for FPM compliance monitoring instruments.

The Governing Board intends to provide English learners with challenging curriculum and instruction that develop proficiency in English while facilitating student achievement in the district's regular course of study.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 42238.02 and 42238.03, the local control funding formula provides additional funding based on the number and concentration of unduplicated counts of students who are English learners, foster youth, and/or eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Such funds must be used to increase or improve services for unduplicated students at least in proportion to the increase in funds apportioned on the basis of the number or concentration of unduplicated students; see BP 3100 - Budget.

Note: In addition, Education Code 52060 requires the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP) to include annual goals and specific actions, aligned to state and local priorities, for all students and for each "numerically significant" student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052, including English learners; see BP/AR 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan.

The district shall identify in its local control and accountability plan (LCAP) goals and specific actions and services to enhance student engagement, academic achievement, and other outcomes for English learners.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)
(cf. 3100 - Budget)

Note: The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district strategies for parent/guardian and community involvement. Education Code 305, as amended by Proposition 58 (November 2016), requires the district to solicit input on language acquisition programs as part of the parent and community engagement process during the development of the LCAP; see section on "Language Acquisition Programs" below. In addition, if district enrollment includes at least 15 percent English learners, with at least 50 students who are English learners, Education Code 52063 requires the establishment of an English learner parent advisory committee to review and comment on the district's LCAP; see the accompanying administrative regulation and BP 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan.

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage parent/guardian and community involvement in the development and evaluation of programs for English learners.

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)
(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 60811, in November 2012 the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted state academic content standards for English language development (ELD), aligned with the California Common Core State Standards for English language arts, for students whose primary language is a language other than English. In July 2014, the SBE adopted the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework aligned to those standards. A supplementary resource, Integrating the CA ELD Standards into K-12 Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning, specifies the correspondence between the state ELD standards and the California Common Core State Standards for mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards.

English learners shall be provided English language development instruction targeted to their English proficiency level and aligned with the state content standards and curriculum framework. The district's program shall be based on sound instructional theory, use standards-aligned instructional materials, and assist students in accessing the full educational program.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)
(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)
(cf. 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

***Note: Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) leaflet CL-622, Serving English Learners, describes requirements pertaining to the qualifications of teachers of English learners. A teacher who is assigned to provide English language development, specially designed academic instruction in English, and/or primary language instruction to English learners must hold an appropriate authorization from the CTC; see AR 4112.22 - Staff Teaching English

Language Learners.***

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all staff employed to teach English learners possess the appropriate authorization from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

(cf. 4112.22 - Staff Teaching English Learners)

Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts that receive federal Title III funds to improve the education of English learners. 20 USC 6825 lists the required uses of such funds, including the provision of professional development of sufficient intensity and duration to have a positive and lasting impact on teachers' performance in the classroom. Pursuant to 20 USC 6825, such professional development must not include one-day or short-term workshops and conferences. Districts that do not receive Title III funds may delete or adapt the following paragraph to reflect district practice.

The district shall provide effective professional development to teachers (including teachers in classroom settings that are not the settings of language instruction educational programs), administrators, and other school or community-based organization personnel to improve the instruction and assessment of English learners and enhance staff's ability to understand and use curricula, assessment, and instructional strategies for English learners. Such professional development shall be of sufficient intensity and duration to produce a positive and lasting impact on teachers' performance in the classroom. (20 USC 6825)

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

To support students' English language development, the Superintendent or designee may provide an adult literacy training program that leads to English fluency for parents/guardians and community members.

Identification and Assessment

Note: Education Code 313 requires any district that has one or more students who are English learners to assess the English language proficiency of those students using a state assessment designated by the SBE. The state is transitioning from the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), which are aligned with the 2012 state standards for ELD. The ELPAC will include a summative assessment, operational in spring 2018, for determining English learners' level of English proficiency and their progress in acquiring the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. The ELPAC's initial screening test for identifying students who may be English learners will be operational July 1, 2018. The CDE also provides a home language survey to be used to identify students who should be tested for English proficiency. See the accompanying administrative regulation for further information about test administration and identification and reclassification criteria.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain procedures for the accurate identification of English learners and an assessment of their proficiency and needs in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English.

Once identified as an English learner, a student shall be annually assessed for language proficiency until he/she is reclassified based on criteria specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Note: In addition to testing the level of English proficiency of English learners, districts are required pursuant to Education Code 60640 to administer the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress to English learners; see BP/AR 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests. As needed, English learners may be provided with the testing resources (i.e., universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations) specified in 5 CCR 853.5 and 853.7 during test administration.

Note: Education Code 60640 also authorizes districts to administer a primary language assessment to English learners in grades 2-11 for the purpose of assessing students' competency in reading, writing, and listening in their primary language. The Standards-Based Test in Spanish may be used for this purpose until a test is available that is aligned with the most recent state ELD standards. The new California Spanish Assessment is expected to be operational in the 2018-19 school year.

English learners' academic achievement in English language arts, mathematics, science, and any additional subject required by law shall be assessed using the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. As necessary, the test shall be administered with testing variations in accordance with 5 CCR 853.5 and 853.7. English learners who are in their first 12 months of attending a school in the United States shall be exempted from taking the English language arts assessment to the extent allowed by federal law. (Education Code 60603, 60640; 5 CCR 853.5, 853.7)

(cf. 6152.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

Language Acquisition Programs

Note: Effective July 1, 2017, Proposition 58 (November 2016) amended Education Code 305-310 and repealed Education Code 311 to authorize parents/guardians to select a language acquisition program that best suits their child. At a minimum, the district must offer a structured English immersion program. It also may offer a dual-language immersion program, transitional and developmental program for English learners, or other language acquisition program as defined in Education Code 306; see the accompanying administrative regulation. The following section may be revised to reflect programs offered by the district.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 310, as amended, when the parents/guardians of 30 or more students at a school or 20 or more students in any grade level at the school request a particular language acquisition program, the district shall offer that program at the school site to the extent possible.

In establishing the district's language acquisition programs, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with parents/guardians and the community during the LCAP development process. He/she shall also consult with administrators, teachers, and other personnel with appropriate authorizations and experience in establishing a language acquisition program. (Education Code 305)

Language acquisition programs are educational programs that are designed to ensure English acquisition as rapidly and as effectively as possible and that provide instruction to students on the state-adopted academic content standards, including the English language development standards. The language acquisition programs provided to students shall be informed by research and shall lead to grade-level proficiency and academic achievement in both English and another language. (Education Code 306)

The district shall offer English learners a structured English immersion program to ensure that English learners have access to the core academic content standards, including the English language development standards, and become proficient in English. In the structured English immersion program, nearly all of the classroom instruction shall be provided in English, but with the curriculum and presentation designed for students who are learning English. (Education Code 305-306)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. The Education Code does not define the term "nearly all" for purposes of ensuring that nearly all instruction in the structured English immersion program is provided in English pursuant to Education Code 306. The following paragraph defines "nearly all" as to provide that all classroom instruction be conducted in English except for clarification, explanation, and support as needed. The district could instead establish a minimum percentage of classroom instructional time to be conducted in English or specify the types of courses to be conducted in English and the courses (e.g., science, algebra) to be taught in the student's primary language.

For the purpose of determining the amount of instruction to be conducted in English in the structured English immersion program, "nearly all" means that all classroom instruction shall be conducted in English except for clarification, explanation, and support as needed.

Note: Items #1-2 below are optional and may be revised to reflect district practice.

In addition, language acquisition programs offered by the district may include, but are not limited to, the following: (Education Code 305-306)

1. The district may offer a dual-language immersion program that provides integrated language learning and academic instruction for native speakers of English and native speakers of another language, with the goals of high academic achievement, first and second language proficiency, and cross-cultural understanding.

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

2. The district may offer a transitional or developmental program for English learners that provides literacy and academic instruction in English and a student's native language and that enables an English learner to achieve English proficiency and academic mastery of subject matter content and higher order thinking skills, including critical thinking, in order to meet state academic content standards.

Parents/guardians of English learners may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. To the extent possible, any language acquisition program requested by the parents/guardians of 30 or more students at the school or by the parents/guardians of 20 or more students at any grade level shall be offered by the school. (Education Code 310)

Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts that maintain any of grades K-3. Education Code 310, as amended by Proposition 58 (November 2016), requires that language acquisition programs in grades K-3 comply with class size requirements specified in Education Code 42238.02. For further information, see BP 6151 - Class Size.

The district's language acquisition programs for grades K-3 shall comply with class size requirements specified in Education Code 42238.02. (Education Code 310)

(cf. 6151 - Class Size)

Note: Education Code 310, as amended by Proposition 58 (November 2016), requires any district that implements a language acquisition program to distribute the following notification when a student enrolls in school or as part of the annual notification issued pursuant to Education Code 48980.

At the beginning of each school year or upon a student's enrollment, parents/guardians shall be provided information on the types of language acquisition programs available to students enrolled in the district, including, but not limited to, a description of each program. (Education Code 310)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Note: As amended by Proposition 58 (November 2016), Education Code 305 no longer specifies that enrollment in a structured English immersion program is "not normally intended to exceed one year," nor does it address a timeline for students to be transferred from any other language acquisition program into an English language mainstream classroom. However, an English learner may transfer to an English language mainstream classroom when he/she has developed the English language skills necessary to succeed in an English-only classroom and, based on criteria established pursuant to Education Code 313 and 52164.6, is reclassified as fluent English proficient. See the accompanying administrative regulation. Furthermore, pursuant to 20 USC 6312, 34 CFR 100.3, and 5 CCR 11301, parents/guardians have a right to decline or opt their child out of a language acquisition program.

When an English learner is determined pursuant to state and district reclassification criteria to have acquired a reasonable level of English proficiency pursuant to Education Code 313 and

52164.6, or upon request by the student's parent/guardian, the student shall be transferred from a language acquisition program into an English language mainstream classroom.

Program Evaluation

Note: The following section may be revised to reflect indicators agreed upon by the Board and Superintendent or designee for measuring the effectiveness of the district's educational program for English learners.

Note: Education Code 52061 requires that the annual update of the LCAP include a review of progress toward the goals included in the LCAP, an assessment of the effectiveness of the specific actions described in the LCAP toward achieving the goals, and a description of changes the district will make as a result of this review and assessment.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 313.2, the CDE is required to annually determine the number of students in each district and school who are, or at risk of becoming, long-term English learners and to report that information to districts and schools. Definitions of "long-term English learner" and "English learner at risk of becoming a long-term English learner" are contained in Education Code 313.1.

Note: The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (P.L. 114-95) repealed 20 USC 6842, thereby eliminating the requirement that districts receiving federal Title III funding (20 USC 6841-6849) reach "annual measurable achievement objectives," including annual increases in the number or percentage of English learners making progress in English proficiency. Instead, 20 USC 6311, as amended by the ESSA, requires the inclusion of a performance indicator on English language proficiency within the state accountability system under Title I.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the district's educational program for English learners, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board, at least annually, regarding:

1. Progress of English learners towards proficiency in English
2. The number and percentage of English learners reclassified as fluent English proficient
3. The number and percentage of English learners who are or are at risk of being classified as long-term English learners in accordance with Education Code 313.1
4. The achievement of English learners on standards-based tests in core curricular areas
5. Progress toward any other goals for English learners identified in the district's LCAP
6. A comparison of current data with data from at least the previous year

The Superintendent or designee also shall provide the Board with regular reports from any district or schoolwide English learner advisory committees.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

300-340 English language education, especially:

305-310 Language acquisition programs

313-313.5 Assessment of English proficiency

430-446 English Learner and Immigrant Pupil Federal Conformity Act

33050 State Board of Education waiver authority

42238.02-42238.03 Local control funding formula

44253.1-44253.11 Qualifications for teaching English learners

48980 Parental notifications

48985 Notices to parents in language other than English

52052 Numerically significant student subgroups

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

52130-52135 Impacted Languages Act of 1984

52160-52178 Bilingual Bicultural Act

56305 CDE manual on English learners with disabilities

60603 Definition, recently arrived English learner

60605.87 Supplemental instructional materials, English language development

60640 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

60810-60812 Assessment of language development

62005.5 Continuation of advisory committee after program sunsets

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

853.5-853.7 Test administration; universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations

11300-11316 English learner education

11510-11517 California English Language Development Test

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1412 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; state eligibility

1701-1705 Equal Educational Opportunities Act

6311 Title I state plan

6312 Title I local education agency plans

6801-7014 Title III, language instruction for English learners and immigrant students

7801 Definitions

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

100.3 Discrimination prohibited

200.16 Assessment of English learners

COURT DECISIONS

Valeria G. v. Wilson, (2002) 307 F.3d 1036

California Teachers Association v. State Board of Education et al., (9th Circuit, 2001) 271 F.3d

1141

McLaughlin v. State Board of Education, (1999) 75 Cal.App.4th 196

Teresa P. et al v. Berkeley Unified School District et al, (1989) 724 F.Supp. 698

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

83 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 40 (2000)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

English Learners in Focus, Issue 1: Updated Demographic and Achievement Profile of California's English Learners, Governance Brief, rev. September 2016

English Learners in Focus, Issue 3: Ensuring High-Quality Staff for English Learners, Governance Brief, July 2016

English Learners in Focus, Issue 2: The Promise of Two-Way Immersion Programs, Governance Brief, September 2014

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Integrating the CA ELD Standards into K-12 Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning, December 2015

Academic Criterion for Reclassification, CDE Correspondence, August 11, 2014

English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework for California Public Schools: Transitional Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2014

Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, rev. 2013

Next Generation Science Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten through Grade Twelve, 2013

English Language Development Standards for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2012

Matrix of Test Variations, Accommodations, and Modifications for Administration of California Statewide Assessments

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Accountability for English Learners Under the ESEA, Non-Regulatory Guidance, January 2017

English Learner Tool Kit for State and Local Educational Agencies (SEAs and LEAs), rev. November 2016

English Learners and Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Non-Regulatory Guidance, September 23, 2016

Dear Colleague Letter: English Learner Students and Limited English Proficient Parents, January 7, 2015

Assessment and Accountability for Recently Arrived and Former Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students, May 2007

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Association for Bilingual Education: <http://www.gocabe.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el>

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition: <http://www.ncela.us>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>