

Columbia School District English Learner (EL) Plan

The Columbia School District's goal for English Learners (ELs) is to provide programs and resources that will maximize their potential for reaching English language proficiency while continuing to hold them to the same high academic standards expected of all students. The district will remove barriers associated with enrolling EL students in school.

The Columbia School District is committed to providing professional development and training opportunities to district employees who work with EL students. By providing these opportunities, there will be a heightened awareness of the importance of these students meeting the annual measurable achievement objectives in order to meet the local, state, and federal requirements and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Through the use of technology, learning tools, resources, supplies and parental involvement activities, teachers will be able to focus on the differences and individual needs of EL students. Such focus will lead to EL students having opportunities to progress in learning English and attaining English proficiency.

The English Learner program for the Columbia School District offers "pull-out" sessions for students. A pull-out session may be one-on-one or group sessions depending upon scheduling and needs. The success of EL students is a group effort. Instruction and accommodations of a regular classroom teacher and an interventionist are provided. The interventionist assigned to each school will work with EL students (those scoring in the lowest performance levels) from one session per week to five sessions per week. The majority of the EL students' time is spent with the regular classroom teacher. According to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the regular classroom teacher is accountable for the EL student's progress.

Columbia School District Procedures for EL Students

- Upon initial enrollment in the Columbia School District, the Home Language Survey will be completed. For potential EL students identified as living in a home where English is not considered to be the primary (first) language, a copy of the Home Language Survey will be forwarded to the District EL Coordinator, School EL Coordinator, and the District Psychometrist. All Home Language Surveys are kept in the students' cumulative folders.
- Within 30 days of enrollment, the Psychometrist or School EL Coordinator will give the LAS Links Placement test to potential EL students who enrolled at the beginning of the school year.
- Potential EL students enrolling after the school year is underway will be given the LAS Links Placement test within two weeks of enrollment.
- The Psychometrist or School EL Coordinator will notify school personnel and District EL Coordinator of LAS Links Placement test results. In a timely manner, the school EL Coordinator will notify the parents or guardians of the placement test results.
- A student who does not pass the LAS Links Placement test will be enrolled in the EL Program after required permission is obtained. A Language Service Plan (LSP) will be developed and updated annually by a Student Evaluation Team (SET) which must include an EL teacher, a general education teacher, a school administrator, and a parent representative. The team should meet at least quarterly.
- Parents who refuse services for their child(ren) are required to sign a refusal form and "pull-out" will not be an option for these students.
- The LAS Links (annual performance assessment for English language proficiency) will be administered in February or March for all eligible students regardless of permission to serve.
- Results of the LAS Links will be released to parents, school counselors, School EL Coordinator, and District EL Coordinator in September or as soon as possible after receipt from MDE/LAS Links.
- Results indicating the need for exiting EL students will be recorded on the district's exit form completed by the EL Team which includes the District EL Coordinator, School EL Coordinator, and principal.
- Copies of all forms will be given to parents, given to the District EL Coordinator, and will be filed in the student's cumulative record by the school guidance counselor.
- After completing an exit form, the EL team will monitor for four years the student's ability to participate meaningfully in the mainstream classroom.

All forms used will be offered in English and the native language. Interpreters will be used when available if parents or guardians have limited use and understanding of English. The Columbia School District participates in training annually to ensure compliance with state and federal mandates.