

**Policy IK: Limited English Proficiency Instruction**

**Status:** DRAFT

**Original Adopted Date:** 08/01/2003 | **Last Revised Date:** 05/09/2024

## LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY INSTRUCTION

The Holmes County Consolidated Board of Education will provide a program of language instruction to students who have limited English proficiency. Student participation in any language instruction program or instruction in English as a second language is voluntary and requires written parental permission.

### IDENTIFICATION

Students who meet any one or more of the following criteria shall be identified as being limited in English proficiency. A student who:

1. Was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English and comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; **or**
2. Is a Native American or Alaskan Native or who is a native resident of the outlying areas and comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the student's level of English language proficiency; **or**
3. Is migratory and whose native language is other than English and comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; **and**
4. Who has sufficient difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language and whose difficulties may deny such individual the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English or to participate fully in our society.

### REQUIREMENTS

The Holmes County Consolidated School District receives federal funding for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Programs. The following will be provided:

1. Parents will be **given written notification** of their **student's child's recommended** placement in a language program **(EL)** and their options associated with that placement. The notification will include the reasons for identifying the child as **potentially** LEP and the reasons for **recommending** placing the child in the specified program.
2. Students will participate in regular assessments in a manner that will yield an accurate assessment. Test waivers may be granted on a case-by-case basis for LEP students who demonstrate unusual and unique circumstances; however, students who have been educated in the United States for three years are required to participate in reading/language arts assessment in English.
3. Certification that teachers in the program are fluent in English as well as other languages used in instruction (if the district receives sub grants).
4. Evaluation of the program and the academic success and language achievement of the students in the program. Parents will be notified of:
  - A. Their child's level of English proficiency and how such a level was assessed.
  - B. The status of their child's academic achievement.

- C. The method of instruction used in the program in which the child is placed, and the methods of instruction used in other available programs.
- D. Information as to how the program will meet their child's educational strengths, assist him/her to learn English, and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards.
- E. Exit requirements for the program.
- F. If the child has a disability, a statement as to how the LEP will meet the objectives of the child's IEP.

Consequences of inadequate yearly progress include notification of parents, development of improvement plans, and restructuring of programs or the district will lose federal funds. For non-English-speaking parents, the district will arrange to provide translations of this information in their native language.

## ENROLLMENT

Every public school in the United States is required to provide a free and equitable education to all school-age children who live within the boundaries of the Local Educational Agency (LEA), regardless of immigration status. Several laws protect the rights of English Learners (ELs) and their families, particularly during the enrollment process. These protections are provided because many EL students' levels of transiency and lack of English proficiency make them a particularly vulnerable population.

When enrolling students, LEAs may not request information from students or their parents or guardians in order to deny access to public schools on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Parent(s) or Legal Guardians(s) must be present when enrolling the child. A child will not be enrolled if a parent or legal guardian is not present at the time of enrollment.

The Holmes County Consolidated School District will follow statewide entrance procedures and screen all potential English learners within thirty (30) days of enrollment or ten (10) days of enrollment after the beginning of the school year. The district will follow student exit criteria as outlined in the Mississippi Guidelines for English Language Learners.

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