
ELS, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE; BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL

The Board shall provide English as a second language (ESL), English language services (ELS) and/or bilingual/bicultural programs of instruction as required by law for pupils who:

- A. Do not speak English and need instruction toward mastery of the English language;
- B. Have limited English proficiency and need instruction in aural comprehension in speaking, writing, and reading;
- C. Speak a language other than English, are more capable of performing school work in that language, and need their basic educational program taught in that language.

The goal of ESL, ELS, and/or bilingual/bicultural programs is to assist pupils to achieve fluency (including listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills) in English and/or in their primary language.

Communication with parents/guardians of pupils in these programs shall be in their primary language when the parent/guardian possesses a primary speaking ability in a language other than English. Reports of pupil progress shall be made to parents/guardians on the same schedule as reports of pupils in the regular program.

The chief school administrator shall direct development of an annual plan for ESL, and/or bilingual/bicultural education which is in compliance with state guidelines. The board will review and approve the plan at a public meeting. The board must adopt the courses of study for ESL and bilingual/bicultural programs in the same manner in which it adopts the curriculum for the regular program. In order to receive the state-endorsed high school diploma, limited English proficient (LEP) pupils must meet the district's graduation requirements.

The chief school administrator shall develop procedures to determine which pupils would benefit from ESL, ELS, and/or bilingual/bicultural programs and to involve school staff, parents/guardians and community members in reviewing programs to determine which would best meet these pupils' needs.

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-15 <u>et seq.</u>	Bilingual education programs
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-1.1	Words and terms defined
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.3	Quality assurance
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.6	Pupil performance: skills and competencies
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4:10	State and Federally mandated programs and services
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-6.1(b)	Assessment procedures
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:11	Teacher preparation and certification

See particularly:

N.J.A.C. 6:11-8.4,-8.5

N.J.A.C. 6:31

Bilingual education

New Jersey State Board Resolution, March 6, 1984, strengthens graduation requirements for pupils with limited English proficiency.

New Jersey State Board Resolution, April 2, 1986, delays effect of new graduation requirements for pupils with limited English proficiency until spring of 1989.

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (June 1993)

Policy Adopted: March 22, 1994