

ESL Quick Information Page

Who is an English Language Learner?

A child who does NOT speak English OR whose native language is NOT English. These students are unable to perform ordinary classroom work in English.

The School District's Responsibility

Just like a Speech Pathologist helps a child acquire language, so does the ESL teacher. In both cases, the student is still receiving education in the mainstream classroom, but needs extra support as well. In Massachusetts, the DOE requires that schools provide English Language Development (ELD) lessons in whatever way the district sees is possible. Since this is a small district, the students have to be taken out of class, rather than have a totally separate ESL class.

English Language Development Lessons (ELD)

- An ELD lesson constitutes activities that integrate reading, writing, listening and speaking. So students see, hear, read and write new vocabulary, sentence structures and content.
- The recommended amounts are:
 - o Beginner and Early Intermediate - 2 ½ hours per day.
 - o Intermediate - 1-2 hours per day.
 - o Transitioning - as needed, but all are monitored so they can be reclassified.

Sheltered English Immersion (SEI)

This is an English language acquisition process for children in which nearly all classroom instruction is in English, but with the curriculum and presentation designed for children who are learning the language.

- All textbooks and other instructional material are to be in English.
- No subject matter should be taught in any language other than English.
- Students learn to read and write solely in English.
- Native language is for clarification only.

Curriculum for ELD Lessons

- The English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes (ELPBO) are meant to serve as a *natural progression to*, rather than a *replacement for*, the Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework learning standards. It is also intended to be used to support the academic instruction of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students.
- To see the ELPBO, contact the DOE or your ESL Provider.