

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Background

To facilitate their integration into the regular school program at the earliest possible opportunity, the Division will provide English as a second language programs and services, to the extent of available provincial funding, to resident students who were born in Canada but who are not fluent in English, and to those (other than exchange students) who have recently arrived in Canada and whose first language is not English.

Special assistance provided to students requiring ESL services will include the development, implementation and assessment of appropriate instructional programs and curricular guidelines, in which attention is given to the linguistic, cultural, and academic needs of the students. Priority will be placed on assistance that encourages the rapid integration of students into the school and community environment.

Procedures

1. The Principal of a school in which students register requiring assistance in learning English as a second language, shall notify the Superintendent or designate of the need.
2. The Superintendent or designate shall determine the amount of funding available from Alberta Education for the offering of an ESL program.
3. A decision concerning the nature and duration of, and the staffing for, an ESL program shall be determined by the Principal and the Superintendent or designate after appropriate assessments of the needs of the students have been conducted.
4. An Individual Program Plan (IPP) for each ESL class (student/s) shall be prepared and maintained by the staff responsible for providing instruction in English as a second language. Such a plan will provide for long and short-term objectives, instructional strategies, evaluation procedures, the reporting of pupil progress, and suggestions for modification/improvement of the program.
5. Top priority will be given to those students who are assessed to have the greatest need for assistance.
6. Applicable provincial grants will be accessed annually by Division personnel, up to a maximum of five years for each eligible funded student.
7. The Superintendent may make program adjustments based on provincial and local monitoring, the availability of funds, evaluation studies and/or other relevant reports.

8. A program evaluation shall be submitted annually to the Superintendent or designate. Such shall be prepared by the Principal in cooperation with the teacher/s. The date for such submission shall be established by the Superintendent or designate.

Reference: Section 8, 9, 60, 61, 113, School Act
Policy 1.5.1 – English as a Second Language
Funding Manual for School Authorities