

Adopted: November 19, 2014

Revised: December 21, 2016, April 26, 2017

BLUESKY CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY No. 5.9.2
ENGLISH LEARNING PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to promote quality instruction for English learning (EL) students and to ensure compliance with laws requiring EL programming.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of BlueSky Charter School is committed to providing an English Learning Program utilizing quality instruction that helps English learners achieve English language proficiency and academic success. Using the Minnesota English Language Proficiency Standards (WIDA) as a guide, BlueSky Charter School's program targets reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in both social and academic contexts. It also provides students with the language skills needed to meet the Minnesota (WIDA) Content Standards in the areas of math, language arts, science, and social studies. By the time students exit the English Language Learning Program, they will have the language tools needed to achieve success in the mainstream classroom.

III. PROGRAM ENTRANCE CRITERIA, ELIGIBILITY AND IDENTIFICATION.

- A. Program Eligibility. A student's eligibility into the BlueSky Charter School EL Program will be based on the following;
 - 1. A student is eligible if they identify on the Home Language Questionnaire that their primary language is something other than English, and/or;
 - 2. The student's W-APT scores are less than 5.0 overall
- B. Identification. BlueSky Charter School will use the Home Language Questionnaire to determine a student's primary language. This questionnaire is provided to the student following enrollment acceptance along with an additional set of online enrollment questions. If it is determined, through the answers given on this questionnaire, that the student has a primary language other than English, the EL teacher, or other identified staff, will take the following steps;

This policy does not constitute legal advice; any questions regarding this policy should be directed to your attorney.

1. EL teacher will offer student the WIDA Placement Test (W-APT).
 2. EL teacher will determine if the student has current W-APT or ACCESS scores. If so, the student can immediately receive services without taking the W-APT.
 3. EL teacher will document W-APT scores in the student management system.
- C. Refusal of service. If the student refuses services, that information is documented in the student management system by the MARSS Coordinator.

IV. PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION.

- A. BlueSky Charter School will notify parents/guardians within 10 days of enrolling a new student into the EL program.
- B. BlueSky Charter School will also notify parents/guardians annually of students' participation in the EL program within 30 days of the beginning of the school year. Parents/guardians have the right to refuse EL services.

V. SERVICE

- A. BlueSky Charter School will offer an EL class for students that are emerging EL learners. This class will be a replacement Language Arts course at the Middle School level and an elective credit at the high school level.
- B. BlueSky Charter School will offer one on one support for EL students in their mainstream courses. The EL teacher and classroom teachers will work together to provide individualized support and adaptations specific to the EL learner's needs.

VI. ONGOING TESTING AND ASSESSMENT

- A. Testing Procedures. BlueSky Charter School will collect data annually on the progress of all EL students using the ACCESS test. This data will be used to determine students' placement in the EL program as well as to inform instructional decisions.
- B. Testing Accommodations. BlueSky Charter School will provide testing accommodations to those students who require them.
- C. Supplementary Programming. BlueSky Charter School's EL program is designed to supplement, not supplant, the mainstream instructional program.
- D. Reclassification. BlueSky Charter School's MARSS Coordinator will reclassify an EL student at the time they exit services based on the criteria in section VII or are no longer a BlueSky Charter School student.

VII. EXIT FROM SERVICES.

A. Students enrolled in the BlueSky Charter School EL Program can exit from services:

1. If the student has higher than a 4.5 overall score on the ACCESS 2.0 test with at least three of the domain scores (reading, writing, speaking, listening) at a 3.5 or higher.

B. BlueSky Charter School students who exit the EL program will continue to be monitored for two years to ensure successful transition. In addition, they will be offered the ACCESS.

VIII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAFF

A. BlueSky Charter School's administration will develop and recommend to the Board professional development opportunities for ESL, bilingual education, mainstream and all staff working with English learners which are coordinated with the School's professional development activities, related to the needs of English learners, and are ongoing.

B. Staff. BlueSky Charter School's EL Coordinator/teacher is licensed by the state of Minnesota in ESL and must participate in ongoing professional development. In addition, the EL teacher will provide teaching staff with training regarding the ELL Program and best practices as needed.

IX. INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO PARENTS.

A. Criteria. Information regarding the school's identification and reclassification criteria for English learners, and program entrance and exit criteria for English learners will be documented by the school and made available to parents and other stakeholders on request.

B. Written Plan of Services. A written plan of services that describes programming by English proficiency level will be made available to parents upon request. The plan must articulate the amount and scope of service offered to English learners through an educational program for such learners.

X. STUDENTS TO BE INTEGRATED IN REGULAR CLASSROOMS AND ACTIVITIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

A. To the extent possible, the school will avoid isolating English learners for a substantial part of the school day.

- B. In predominantly nonverbal subjects, such as art, music and physical education, the school will encourage English learners to participate fully and on an equal basis with their contemporaries in classes provided for these subjects.
- C. To the extent possible, the school will assure that pupils enrolled in a program for English learners have access to an equal and meaningful opportunity to participate fully with other pupils in all extracurricular activities.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §124E (Charter Schools)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.59 (Definitions)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.61 (General Requirements for EL Programs)
<http://www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/EngLearnSup/EngLearnEdocGuide/index.html>