

Complaint Procedures for Non-Discrimination

If a parent or student has a complaint about any aspect of EL services, the parent should speak with their child's classroom teacher, an EL teacher in the building or directly with the building principal.

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity or access to programs or services may file a complaint, which may be referred to as a grievance, with the District's Civil Rights Coordinator.

Sarah Earnest, Assistant Superintendent
for Employee Relations
Wyoming Public Schools
3575 Gladiola Avenue SW
Wyoming, Michigan 49519

Parent Refusal

Parents who choose for their child not to participate in the EL program must notify the EL staff and/or building principal. A letter must be obtained from the student's building, and signed by the parent/guardian.

These students will not receive services. However, under federal law these students must still be tested the ACCESS for ELLs each spring until they meet the exit criteria.

Community Education for Adults

It's never too late to learn English! Take the first step by enrolling in the Wyoming Public Schools (WPS) Adult Education Program. ESL classes are State supported and **FREE**. Our exemplary educational program provides adult learners with a second chance to strengthen their skills, and to open up new opportunities for higher education, job advancement, and more.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

The ESL program offers comprehensive and intensive English programs for those who are serious about improving their English. These classes will help **beginning** students **through advanced level** students to improve their English so they can be more successful in college, at work and in the community.

For more information, contact:
Oogie LaMar, Director
Jamie Groendyk, Secretary
(616) 530-7500

Buildings & Principals

Gladiola, Cheryl Corpus 530-7596
Oriole Park, Kristen Fuss 530-7558
Parkview, Nick Damico 530-7572
West, Brian Hartigan 530-7533
Intermediate, Kirk Bloomquist 530-7540
Jr. High, Jon Blackburn 530-7590
Wyoming High, Josh Baumbach 530-7580
Wyoming Regional Center, Al Vigh 530-7508

Website:

www.wyomingps.org/english-learner/



English Learners (EL) Parent Handbook



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure that all EL students achieve the English language competence needed for academic success, and for life in a literate culture.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to help our EL students master social and academic English to navigate diverse global communities, and to foster a supportive environment that affirms students' cultural richness and linguistic assets.

English Learner (EL) Program

Wyoming Public Schools provides unique opportunities for students and families that have a home or native language other than English. The diverse backgrounds of our students adds to the richness of our schools and we encourage you to celebrate and maintain your native languages and cultural identities. It is our goal to do everything possible to further your child's education and English language development.

EL Identification

Entrance into the EL program is first initiated through the parent completing the student registration form. If another language other than English is marked on the Home Language Survey section the student *may* be eligible for the EL program.

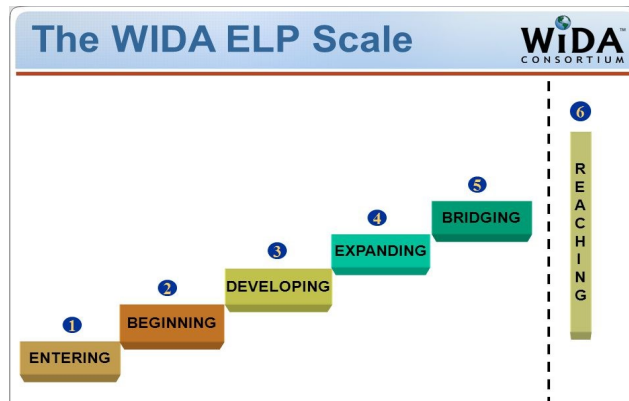
To protect the civil rights of our students, and in compliance with federal and state requirements, all public schools are required to assess students who have a home and/or native language other than English.

These students will take the WIDA-Access Placement Test (W-APT) upon entry. All English learners are tested annually on the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 to help ensure appropriate program placement and services.

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

The WIDA Access for ELLs examines student's levels of English proficiency of both social and academic language. Social language is used to communicate for everyday purposes. Academic language, or the language of school, is used to communicate the content of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Levels of English Proficiency



1. **Entering** - Limited or no understanding of the English language.
2. **Emerging** - Understands short phrases or sentences.
3. **Developing** - Understands expanded sentences, and developing social and academic language.
4. **Expanding** - Good language skills, but may require support in academic areas or when there is a high degree of literacy required.
5. **Bridging** - Knows and uses social and academic language.
6. **Reaching** - Knows and uses social and academic language at the highest levels.

EL Program Components

EL services to support English language development may include:

Direct Instruction

EL English classes are taught by a bilingual or EL teacher. Support is focused on English language development and overall academic success. Newcomers English provides the opportunity for students who have recently entered the U.S. to learn everyday vocabulary and sentence structure while also developing academic and critical thinking skills.

EL Consultation/Coaching

EL staff continually monitor and support all ELs by consulting with general education classroom teachers.

Interventionist Support

EL students may receive specific skill based instruction as determined by diagnostic assessment to support continued development in Language Arts and Math.

Bilingual Support

Certified bilingual instructors and paraeducators who are fluent in both the native language of students and English provide instruction, provide instruction using the student's native language to bridge comprehension gaps.

Translation Support

School districts have an obligation to ensure meaningful communication with parents in a language they can understand. Please talk to your EL teachers in your child's school for more information.

Parents are Important!

Parents are an important aspect for any student program to be successful. When parents and teachers work together as a team, children do better in school. PLEASE ask your child's principal or teacher how you can be involved.

Special Education

When English learners have a disability, students are eligible for both English learner services as well as special education services. Some of these students will take an alternate assessment called the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Students can be eligible for exit when they score a P2.

Exit Criteria

Students are eligible for exit from the EL program when they have scored a 4.8 or higher on the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. In the fall, parents will be informed by a letter sent home in the mail. With all our EL Program components and educational supports, we would expect your child to exit from the EL Program within 5-7 years.

Formerly English Learners

At WPS, our goal is to exit a minimum of 10% EL students annually. When exited, the student is monitored for the following four years thereafter or until graduated.