

English Language Learners Program Overview

The English Language Education Department supports the mission of Baystate Academy Charter Public School to ensure that all students achieve to their highest ability by providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to flourish in our democratic society. In so doing, the ESL Department supports each ELL student by giving them the opportunity to acquire the language skills they need to access our curriculum and to participate fully in our district's rich offering of classes, activities, sports, and clubs. To that end, our goal is that each individual student is screened carefully, taught appropriately, and monitored closely. Massachusetts state law defines the term "English learner" as a child who does not speak English or who is not currently able to perform ordinary classroom work in English.

To accomplish this, the English Language Education Department provides students, teachers, and administrators K-12 with a continuum of services and programs that will help all of our EL students develop the listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English they need to meet our district's and the state's academic expectations. The language development of EL students is the responsibility of both ESL and general education teachers. The ESL teachers provides these services segmented into the following activities:

- Train classroom teachers in Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved trainings;
- Meet frequently with teachers to support them with curriculum materials and instruction (based on the new WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards) in how to teach the 1 components of EL literacy: Speaking, Reading, Writing, Listening, including offering workshops and book talks;
- Support classroom teachers in determining educational goals and learning outcomes for EL students;
- Provide direct instruction, based on the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards, through ESL/ELD course offerings at the grades 6 - 12 level and, at the K - 5 level, through ESL/ELD direct instruction during literacy blocks and intervention blocks;
- Consult with teachers and administrators to assist in the creation and administration of formative, benchmark, and summative assessments to be used in the classrooms;
- Collaborate with classroom teachers to interpret state, local, and classroom assessments and help teachers structure their instruction to support growth as identified through these assessments;
- Conduct research-based best practice professional development workshops in ESL instruction and WIDA English Language Development standards; 1WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design

and Assessment) is housed within the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madi 5 English Language Learner Education Handbook

- Provide teachers with information on the emotional and social needs of students, especially students who have experienced interrupted formal education due to trauma and
- Collaborate with the English Language Arts department, Special Education Department and appropriate school staff on school-wide assessments, data collection, and analysis.