

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) DISTRICT PLAN

The Tishomingo County School District believes that all students deserve the right to an environment that allows them to grow intelligently, socially, emotionally, morally and physically. Our objective for English Language Learners is to create an environment that challenges the student to learn the English language, to foster skills necessary to master benchmarks and ensure that the student feels comfortable and accepted in his/her surrounding.

### PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

A Home Language Survey is a component of the school registration packet completed by parents when a student enrolls in this district. Registration packets are completed at the beginning of each school year or when a student moves into our district and registers to attend school. If the survey indicates English is not the primary language spoken in the home, further assessment will be given. The assessment tool used is the Stanford English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). The ELPA is administered to each student identified by the Home Language Survey as having a language other than English as the primary home language. The assessment is given by Eva Kirk, the district's ELL teacher. After evaluating the assessment results, parents are notified and qualifying students are placed in ELL classes for instruction. Students determined to be proficient in English receive instruction in regular classrooms and the ELL teacher monitors their progress.

A teacher is employed by the district, using state and local funds, to teach the ELL curriculum. An interpreter is also employed to assist the ELL teacher and regular classroom teachers. The interpreter is also available to inform ELL parent of school events, assist with questions concerning homework and other school related activities.

After registration, all ELL students are placed in the appropriate grade. If the student is not English proficient, he/she will be scheduled for English instruction for a minimum of one class period per day. Students requiring more assistance with the English language will be scheduled for more class periods per day. In compliance with the Mississippi Department of Education ELL grading guideline, The Tishomingo County School District has adopted the following grading system for ELL students as they transition into the English language:

- S Satisfactory Progress
- I Improving
- N Needs to Improve
- U Unsatisfactory Progress

(The use of this scale must be approved by the local school principal and ELL coordinator/teacher.)

The ELL curriculum is taught using the textbook, Into English, for English transitional instruction. The ELL classroom is equipped with computers with software installed to enhance student learning. Knowledge Works software by Milliken Publishing and PLATO's Rosetta Stone Transition from Spanish to English software is used to teach phonics, reading and remediation.

A student should have the skills necessary to perform successfully in the regular classroom before exiting the ELL program. He/she must have met the following criteria:

- test fluent in English proficiency on the Stanford ELPA in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing.
- MCT score of proficient in all areas on the appropriate grade level tests.

Parent/student conferences will be scheduled to evaluate progress, make recommendations and review student progress. After testing out of the ELL classroom, the student's progress will be monitored for the next school year to give assistance if needed. If progress monitoring indicates that the student is falling behind in the regular classroom work and/or English language skills, a parent conference will be scheduled and the student will receive ELL classroom assistance or other assistance as needed.

#### Guidelines for Exiting the ELL Program

1. The student test proficient in all areas of the Stanford English-Language Proficiency Test (S-ELP).
2. The student's scores on MCT2 are proficient or above.
3. The regular classroom teacher evaluates the student's overall achievement in the classroom and recommends the student exiting the ELL program.
4. A letter from the parent/guardian recommending the student is allowed to exit the ELL program.
5. Following the parent/guardian's letter of agreement to the exiting recommendation, the ELL teacher monitors the student's regular classroom work (report card, copies of class work, etc.) and test scores on statewide assessments for two years. The student is also tested with the S-ELP for two years.
6. The student can re-enter the program at any time, if he/she needs additional support for the ELL program.