

Steelton-Highspire School District English Language Development



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What is the English Language Development Program (ELD)?

The English Language Development Program provides instruction throughout the day for English learners delivered by all teachers. Our goal is to provide English language and academic support to ensure a high quality education for our students.

How does a student qualify for English Language Development (ELD) support?

1. The enrollment team administers a Home Language Survey and a Family Interview.
2. A student with a language besides English indicated will be flagged for possible assessment. The assessment will determine the student's current level of English proficiency in all areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
3. A student will take the WIDA Screener Online or the Kindergarten W-APT.
4. Any student that scores below 5.0 will qualify for ELD support and then be enrolled in our ELD support program.

Our Program Support

Our English Language Development program provides instruction for English Learners in kindergarten through 12th grade. Teachers provide instruction for our English learners in the general education classroom. ESL/ELD teachers work together with content teachers to provide academic instruction in English adapted to our students' English proficiency levels. Students also receive specialized English instruction in the ESL/ELD classroom.

Our ESL/ELD instruction comprises intensive language instruction for students with lower English proficiency levels and assistance as needed for students with higher English proficiency levels. The extent of services provided to a student depends on the student's individual level of need.

ELs and Special Education

English Learners receiving Special Education services are also eligible to receive ELD/ESL support. We will work together with the Special Education Department to coordinate student support.

English Language Proficiency Levels

Level 1 – Entering

Level 2 – Beginning

Level 3 – Developing

Level 4 – Expanding

Level 5 – Bridging (Eligible for Monitor status)

Level 6 – Reaching (Exit Support, equivalent to a native English speaker)

WIDA has 6 levels of English language proficiency. The lowest score is 1.0, and the highest score is 6.0. A student is eligible to move to Monitor status when he/she reaches 4.5 on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 English Language Proficiency Test.

Identification of Students

Steelton-Highspire School District identifies students to participate in the ELD/ESL program based on the federal government definition of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students as described in Public Law 107-110 the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

An LEP student is classified as one:

1. Who is enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12th grade.

2. Who may have been born in the United States or whose native language is other than English dominant... AND/OR
3. Someone in their household speaks a language other than English.
4. Whose difficulties speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English may be sufficient evidence to test the student's English Language Proficiency.
 - The ability to meet the state's proficient level of achievement on state assessments.
 - The ability to achieve successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or
 - The opportunity to fully participate in society.

P.L. 107-110, Title IX, Part A, Sec. 9101, (25)