



Are you an English Language Learner?

Do you have questions about how the law protects your rights?

What is an English Language Learner (ELL)?

You are eligible for ELL if:

- you are in grades kindergarten through twelve
- the language you speak at home is not English, and
- your English is not good enough to meaningfully participate in the regular school program

How does my school know I am an ELL?

The school is required to identify ELLs and classify them by native language. The State Board of Education recommends that schools send a Home Language Survey to each home.

How does the Home Language Survey (HLS) work?

The HSL determines your dominant language by asking:

- the first language you spoke
- the primary language spoken by your parents, and
- the primary language you speak at home

What happens after the survey?

If your dominant language is not English, the school will:

- give you a language proficiency test
- observe you, and/or
- interview you to determine your English proficiency

Is the evaluation done in English?

Evaluation and placement procedures must be conducted in your dominant language.

Who decides which program I go into?

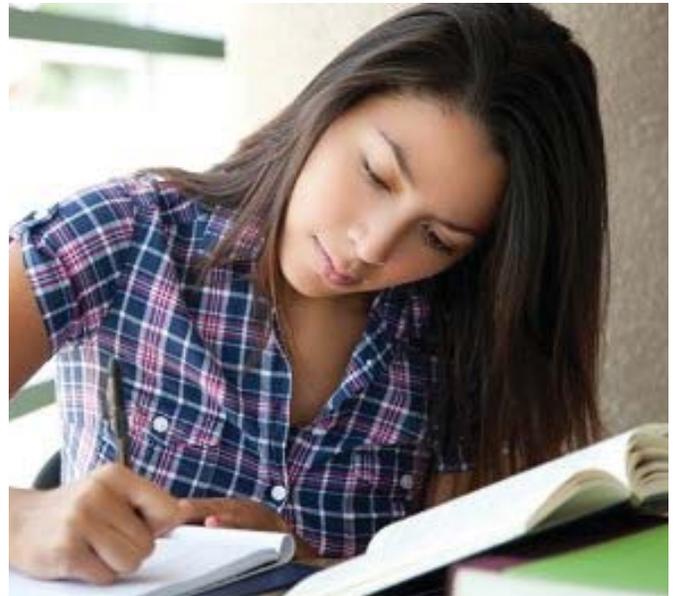
The school must meet with your parents or guardians and explain the language program options available in the school district. Your parents or guardians make the final decision.

What if my parents or guardians don't speak English?

The school is required to send information to your parents or guardians in their native language. Your parents/guardians can bring an interpreter or advisor to any meeting with the school.

What if my English was tested a long time ago?

The school must test you every year, usually with the Language Assessment Scales (LAS).



What is bilingual education?

Bilingual education means that teaching is in both English and your native language. The goal is to teach you English and the subject content, increasing English in the classroom as time goes on.

Does my school have bilingual education?

If in one year, your school has 20 or more ELLs who speak the same language, the school must provide bilingual education the next year.

What if there is no bilingual teacher for a subject?

If there is no bilingual teacher, you will be in the general education class for that subject, but you may get help from a certified bilingual education teacher or TESOL-certified teacher.

How long can I be in bilingual education?

You have a right to 30 months of bilingual education if you go to a bilingual school. This can be extended for 20 more months if the local or regional board of education submits a request to the State Department of Education and the Department approves.

Can I decide not to do bilingual education?

Your parents can opt out of bilingual education by signing a form at school.

What happens when my bilingual education program is over?

If you have not mastered English when your bilingual program is over, you are eligible for Language Transition Support Services.

What are Language Transition Support Services?

Language Transition Support is a bridge between bilingual programs and general education classes. You may receive services such as tutoring, testing accommodations, and homework assistance.

What is English as a Second Language (ESL)?

ESL means teaching is only in English, but the teacher is trained to teach English to foreign language speakers. The goal is to teach you both English and the subject content.

What kind of services can I receive as an ESL student?

You may have to leave class to work with an ESL teacher, or you may receive help from a tutor or ESL teacher in your regular class.

What is a Sheltered English program?

This teaching is in English but the entire class is ELL students who may receive language support services.

What is an English Immersion Program?

English Immersion means teaching is entirely in English and you receive no language support services.

What if my school can't teach me because I did not go to school in my native country?

The school still must teach you. They should hold a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting to evaluate you and decide if you need ELL or Special Education services.

Who should I call if I do not get the services I need?

- **For information and legal help**, call the Center for Children's Advocacy: 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719
- **For questions about programs**, call State Department of Education consultants Megan Alubicki Flick and Joe Di Garbo: 860-713-6786 or 860-713-6863