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English for Speakers of Other Languages Program Eligibility Parent Notification Form

Date: _____

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian of _____

This letter is to notify you that your child is eligible for services through the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. These services may be partially funded with Title I and/or Title III funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended.

☐ **New Enrollment:** Your child's Language Use Survey indicated that your child has a primary/home language other than (or in addition to) English. Your child's English Language Proficiency (ELP) was measured by an ELP screening assessment. Your child's overall score on the ELP screener, administered on _____, was _____. The threshold for ESOL program eligibility is _____.

☐ **Continuing Enrollment:** For students who are continuing participation in an ESOL program, Maine's annual ELP assessment is ACCESS for ELLs (or Alternate ACCESS, if applicable). Your child's overall score on the ELP assessment, administered on _____ was _____. The threshold for ESOL continued ESOL program eligibility is _____.

Your child's ELP scores indicate that your child is not yet proficient in English. To demonstrate proficiency and exit from the program, a child must score at a level 4.5 or higher on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment (or level P2 on Alternate ACCESS, if applicable). A student who achieves proficiency will no longer be eligible for the ESOL program. After a student has exited the ESOL program, staff will monitor the student's progress to ensure that ESOL services are no longer needed.

Your child's current level of academic achievement is _____, as measured by _____.

The ESOL program provides assistance to students whose primary/home language is other than English and who need help in meeting the challenging academic standards set by the Maine Learning Results. ESOL programming is designed to meet the specific needs of each student who is identified as an English learner (EL) based on assessment information, which includes annual ELP assessment, district assessments, teacher observation, and progress monitoring.

The ESOL program supports the use of best practices for second language acquisition and sound educational strategies for meeting the individual needs of students. The method of instruction in your child's ESOL program will be:

☐ **Transitional Bilingual Education or Early-Exit Bilingual Education:** Instruction begins in the students' primary/home language, in order not to delay content learning. Students develop English proficiency as quickly as possible so that all instruction may then be in English.

Mission Statement: To create educational opportunities in which students are productive, caring, informed and involved citizens, and lifelong learners.

☐ **Dual Language or Two-way Immersion:** Instruction is in the students' primary/home language part of the time and in English the rest of the time, with the goal of developing proficiency and academic skills in both languages. Two-way immersion programs include students from each language group.

☐ **ESOL or English Language Development:** Instruction is in English only. Students learn academic content through English while developing proficiency in English. Typically, ESOL/ELD programs involve direct pull-out or push-in instruction from a 600 ESOL-endorsed teacher.

☐ **Content Classes with Integrated ESOL Support:** Instruction is in English only. The ESOL-endorsed teacher supports the content teacher in delivering effective instruction for English learners, and/or the content teacher is ESOL-endorsed.

☐ **Newcomer Program:** Recently-arrived immigrants, especially those with limited or interrupted formal schooling, are provided with intensive language, cultural, and academic skills programming to prepare them to enter the mainstream. Typically, students remain in newcomer programs for no longer than one year, per federal guidance.

These programs are designed to help students learn English and meet academic requirements. We believe that the recommended programming is the best option to meet your child's instructional needs and will promote academic success. It is expected that your child will attain ELP within _____ school years. Further, the high school graduation rate for our students who have been identified as English learners is _____%.

Our district is able to offer additional supports for all students. For further information regarding these services, please contact: Steve Bussiere at 324-2810. If you have questions regarding other services that may be available to your child, please contact: Steve Bussiere at 324-2810.

If your child has a disability, the ESOL program will work with the IEP goals and additional staff to determine the most appropriate instructional practices to meet all the needs of your child.

Your child has an Individualized Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP) attached to this notification that describes their ESOL services and supports in detail. The ILAP contains regular progress monitoring comments and we encourage you to review the attached plan. If you were not involved in the development of the plan and would like to meet with instructional staff to review the plan, please contact your child's ESOL teacher or school principal.

You may accept or decline ESOL services. To accept services, you do not have to take any action. You may also withdraw your child from services by contacting the school in writing indicating your preference to the school. Your child will then be serviced through the general instructional program for students who are proficient in English and continue to be assessed annually with ACCESS for ELLs (or Alternate ACCESS, if applicable). We may also discuss other options for support with you, if you wish.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact: Steve Bussiere. We look forward to working with your child and your family throughout this school year!

Sincerely,



Steve Bussiere
Assistant Superintendent