

MLL Instruction at the Portsmouth School Department

- an overview –
December 12, 2022

I. Instructional Model

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has approved six instructional models for use. Districts have the prerogative to select a model of instruction that best fits the needs of students and staff. The Portsmouth School Department uses the *Collaborative ESL and General Instruction* model.

II. MLL vs. EL vs. ESL etc.

Over the years, the terms used to define and describe language learning programs have evolved. These upgrades have been disputed by some because of confusing acronyms. Here are a few of the common acronyms you may see in literature:

- ✓ **MLL** = multilingual learner (term currently used in Rhode Island)
- ✓ **EL** = English learner (former term used in Rhode Island)
- ✓ **ELL** = English language learner (term currently used in Massachusetts)
- ✓ **ESL** = English as a second language (still found in many state and federal documents)
- ✓ **L1** = the first language a student acquired
- ✓ **L2** = the second language a student acquired (usually English)

III. The WIDA Consortium

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) organization is the professional consortium that RIDE belongs to. There are 41 states in the consortium. WIDA provides the professional development, student learning, and assessment standards that promote high achievement and academic success in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The five WIDA standards are: Social & Instructional language, the language of Language Arts, the language of Mathematics, the language of Science, and the language of Social Studies.

IV. WIDA Access Testing

The Access test is the required annual standardized test that every MLL student participates in. Students are tested in their English language development in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Test scores are used to determine program eligibility and direction of instruction. The administration window is early January to mid-February. Results will be available for parent and teacher review in May.

V. Professional Development for Educators

There are dozens of opportunities to learn best practices for supporting our second language learners. The **WIDA** Consortium and **RIDE** provide professional workshops for educators interested in supporting MLL students. Current online topics offered by WIDA <https://wida.wisc.edu/grow/us-based-pl/elearning>:

- ✓ Classroom Teachers: Engaging Multilingual Newcomers
- ✓ Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics
- ✓ Engaging Multilingual Learners in Science: Making Sense of Phenomena
- ✓ Home Languages in the Classroom
- ✓ Making Language Visible in the Classroom
- ✓ Reframing Education of Long Term English Learners
- ✓ Social Studies: Engaging Multilingual Learners through Inquiry
- ✓ WIDA ELD Standards Framework: A Collaborative Approach

VI. Translators and Interpreters and Google Translate

According to the Kent State Applied Linguists Department, “In general, interpreters mediate languages orally while translators work with written material.” Meetings and documents that require professional language assistance are supported by RIDE approved translation services. PSD does not use Google Translate. However, there are limited exceptions to this protocol. A classroom teacher, for example, may decide to use Google Translate to send out a brief e-mail message (“*Just a reminder that Friday is Spirt Day. Wear red and blue.*”) to non-English speaking parents and guardians.

Contact your school’s administration, or designee, if language services are needed.

VII. Parent and Guardian Communication

The Portsmouth School Department makes every effort to communicate with families in the language(s) of their choice. Contact your school's administration if you need written or verbal communication in a language other than English.

VIII. Schedule of MLL Services for 2022 – 2023

This schedule is based on current enrollment and could change. Updates will be posted when necessary.

- ✓ **Mondays** Hathaway (A.M.) and PHS consults (P.M.)
- ✓ **Tuesdays** Melville (A.M.) and PMS (P.M.)
- ✓ **Wednesdays** Hathaway (A.M.) and PHS consults (P.M.)
- ✓ **Thursdays** PMS (A.M.) and Melville (P.M.)
- ✓ **Fridays** PMS student support, screenings, monitoring academic progress, reports, developing resource materials for staff, follow-up meetings at all four schools

Sources:

Kent State Applied Linguists Department; www.kent.edu/appling

Rhode Island Department of Education; www.ride.ri.gov

WIDA Consortium; <https://wida.wisc.edu>