

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY INSTRUCTION  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

- I. The Cooperative Board of Education believes that students, who, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, have limited English proficiency, will be more effective learners of both the language and the curriculum if they receive instruction in both their native language and English. The BOCES will therefore make every effort to ensure that limited English proficient (English Language Learners (ELL)) students are provided with an appropriate program of transitional bilingual education or English as a second language program.
  
- II. It is the policy of the BOCES that the District Superintendent be directed to develop appropriate administrative regulations, in accordance with Parts 117 and 154 of the Commissioner's Regulations, to ensure that ELL students are:
  - A. Screened for limited English proficiency, as part of the overall diagnostic evaluation, upon student's initial enrollment or reentry in the New York State public school system;
  - B. Identified, as appropriate, as an ELL student and notification and information provided to the parent, person in parental relation, or students 18 years of age or older;
  - C. Evaluated annually in areas prescribed by the Commissioner;
  - D. Assured of access to appropriate instructional and support services, including guidance programs; and
  - E. Assured of having equal opportunities to participate in all school programs and extracurricular activities as non-ELL students.
  
- III.
  - A. The District Superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that a description of the nature and scope of the instructional programs and services to help them acquire English proficiency is available to limited English proficient pupils.
  - B. The District Superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that the Commissioner is provided with all information required under the Commissioner's Regulations and that the BOCES provides appropriate school-related information to the parents of ELL students in English, or, when necessary, in the language they understand.
  - C. The District Superintendent shall ensure that all teachers employed for any bilingual and/or ELL program are properly certified in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations.

POLICY

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- IV. The BOCES shall develop and update as necessary, a comprehensive plan ("Plan") in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations to meet the needs of ELL students enrolled in the BOCES. The Plan will be kept on file in the BOCES office and made available for review by the State Education Department upon request.

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Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Legal Ref: 8 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 117 and 154; NYS Education Law § 3204.

Adopted: 06/21/17