

English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education

Mission Statement

It is the goal of the ESL department to ensure that students who enter this district with limited English develop all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, in the most efficient and effective manner to promote academic success as well as a smooth assimilation into American culture.

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Grading Policy for grades 7-12: Students' grades are based on the average of 5 grades per marking period. These grades are broken down as follows:

1. homework/ class work- this includes one average of assignments in and out of class as well as a student's preparation for class and participation in activities
2. quiz average- includes an average of at least four written and oral quizzes per marking period
3. tests/projects- includes three cumulative assessments of students' skills; each one counts separately

Grading Policy for grades K-6:

Students in kindergarten receive semi annual reports indicating strengths and weaknesses in two language skills, listening and speaking. Students in grades 1-6 receive quarterly reports of satisfactory or unsatisfactory based on their progress in all four-language skills. Three proficiency levels are considered when determining progress.

Important dates & upcoming activities:

September- AYP Data due to the Department of Education

October – Language survey of all students in the district
LEP student survey

December- ESL Holiday Party

Student Achievements: ESL Scholarship Winner 2006: Magdalena Dlugozima

The New Jersey Department of Education requires districts to provide English language services to students whose first language is not English or have limited English language skills.

The Wallington Board of Education determines student eligibility by the District Screening Process which encompasses a Home Language Survey and Teacher Observation Rating Sheet. A student's level of English Language proficiency is then assessed with the MAC II.

Eligible students are grouped according to their English language proficiency level based on their performance on the MAC II and/or by grade level. All English language learners are seen twice a day by a certified English as a Second Language teacher. One period is used to develop each of the four language skills. The other period is used to facilitate mastery of language skills needed for the various content areas to keep the English language learners on par with students in the mainstream classes.

The district utilizes a multiple measures criteria for exit from the program which includes: the student's performance on the ACCESS, classroom performance, reading level in English, performance on standardized tests and teacher recommendations.

For more information on the state guidelines go to www.nj.gov/njded/bilingual