

ENGLISH LEARNERS (English Learners)

Albemarle County Public Schools welcomes students from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds, believing they enrich the school community. The school division maintains that speakers of languages other than English hold the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as all other students. Therefore, an equal educational opportunity will be provided that complies with Title V of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974 (EEOA).

An English Learner (EL) is one who may or may not have been born in the United States, whose native language is a language other than English, or one who comes from an environment where English is not the dominant language and, as a result, has sufficient difficulty in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English so as to limit the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms where English is the language of instruction.

A student's English language proficiency will be assessed to determine placement in English language assistance programs. The goal of the English for Speakers of Other Languages program in the division is to integrate students for whom English is not their first language into the educational and cultural mainstream through appropriate curricula and instructional, as well as assessment strategies, that address the needs of individual students and their families.

Generally

The Albemarle County School Board provides programs to improve the education of English Learners by assisting the students to learn English and meet Virginia's challenging academic content and academic achievement standards.

Assessments

The Albemarle County School Board annually assesses the English proficiency of all English Learners.

Notification

The Albemarle County School Board, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, informs parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of an English Learner qualifying for the ESOL program with information that includes:

- the reasons for the identification of their student as an English Learner in need of supplemental linguistic services and placement in a language instruction education program;
- the student's level of English proficiency, how that level was assessed, and the status of the child's academic achievement;
- the method of instruction used in the program in which their student is, or will be, participating, and the methods of instruction used in other available programs,

- including how such programs differ in content, instruction goals, and use of language in instruction;
- how the program in which their student is, or will be, participating will meet his/her educational strengths and needs;
 - how such program will specifically help their student learn English, and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;
 - the specific exit criteria for the language instruction education program, the expected rate of transition into general education classrooms without supplemental linguistic support, and the expected rate of graduation from high school (including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates for such program)
 - in the case of a student with a disability, how the language instruction education program complements his/her individualized education program; and
 - information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance
 - detailing the right that parents and legal guardians have to decline the services of, or remove their student from the language instruction education program, and
 - assisting parents and legal guardians in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than one program or method is offered by the school division.

For a student who has not been identified as an English Learner prior to the beginning of the school year, the School Board provides the notice detailed above within two weeks of the student being placed in the program.

The information described above is provided to parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parent can understand.

In accordance with the Code of Virginia §22.1-5.D, the Albemarle County School Board accepts and provides programs for English Learners (English Learners) who entered school in Virginia for the first time after reaching their 12th birthday and who have not reached the age of 22 on or before August 1 of the school year. No tuition is charged to such students if state funding is provided for such programs.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
 Amended: February 22, 1999; October 11, 1999, June 28, 2007; March 8, 2012; March 12, 2015; October 26, 2017

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended § 22.1-5
 20 U.S.C. §§ 6311, 6312, 6825

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