

Baconton Community Charter School

District English Learner (EL) Policy :

*Approved: September 19, 2019

Vision:

A high performing school district in which all English Learners are successful, limited English families engage, and the community values linguistic and cultural diversity.

Mission:

Through fostering a desire for education and achievement, all English Learners will graduate high school eager and prepared for continued academic pursuits.

Program Goals:

The English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program nurtures inclusive classrooms that are responsive to the linguistic and cultural needs of English Learners and their families. The ESOL program is a standards-based curriculum emphasizing academic and social language development. Instructional approaches, both in ESOL and general education classes, ensure that the needs of Georgia's ELs are accommodated. ESOL coursework is based upon the WIDA Consortium English Language Development (ELD) standards. The goals of the program are as follows:

1. To develop competency in English in all four domains of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing;
2. To integrate language, cognitive and academic instruction that enables students to develop English language proficiency and content area knowledge;
3. To support the curriculum based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence while emphasizing social and academic language proficiency;
4. To orient students and parents to the American culture and enable them to participate successfully in school and community life;
5. To ensure grade-level appropriate content for all ELs regardless of English proficiency level;
6. To ensure that all staff in the district assume responsibility for the acculturation and instruction of ELs and instruction of EL's and immigrant students.

Process for Identifying ESOL Services:

The Georgia Department of Education provides the following guidelines for identifying students who may be identified as an English Language Learner (ELL):

1. Students whose native/home/first language is other than English
2. Students who have difficulty listening, speaking, reading, writing or understanding the English language to the extent that their language skills are a barrier to their success in a regular classroom.

Parents complete The Home Language Survey (HLS) for his/her child when registering in the Baconton Community Charter School System. The Home Language Survey is included in the registration form packet. The HLS helps to determine if there is the influence of a language other than English in the

child's environment. This survey contains four questions and will identify any languages other than English that are:

1. most frequently spoken in the home by adults
2. most frequently spoken in the home by the student
3. student currently understands or speaks
4. prefer notices of school activities to be sent home

Eligible students are screened with the state-adopted proficiency test, the WIDA-ACCESS for ELLs Placement Test (W-APT) and are determined to be either proficient in English or at a level of English proficiency that can benefit from ESOL services. This screening will take place within the first 30 days of the first day of the new school year or within 5 days of the registration date of the student if after the school year has begun.

Exiting the ESOL program:

Upon attainment of English language proficiency, as measured by the "ACCESS for ELLs 2.0" assessment, EL students exit from language support services.