

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Background

The Division supports the provision of an English as a Second Language Program for students requiring assistance with the acquisition of basic English language skills.

English as a Second Language programming (ESL) is designed to provide specialized service for students who require assistance in acquiring an English language foundation.

Guidelines

1. Eligibility for the program shall be determined by a student's linguistic, cultural and academic needs.
2. The program may vary in length and intensity depending on the student's needs.
3. The program shall follow the policies, guidelines and procedures established by Alberta Education.
4. Program availability within the Division will be determined annually based upon:
 - 4.1 The number of students requiring the program.
 - 4.2 The availability of appropriate facilities and qualified staff.
 - 4.3 Program costs.
 - 4.4 Other factors considered relevant by the Board.

Procedures

1. Each year Principals will submit to the Superintendent a list of students requiring ESL instruction.
2. If the number of students identified warrant the establishment of an ESL program, the Superintendent, in consultation with school-based staff, will establish a program to meet those needs.
3. If an appropriate program cannot be offered in the Division, arrangements may be made to purchase services from another jurisdiction.
4. Written parental approval is required before students are registered in an ESL program.

Reference: Section 3, 17, *Education Act*
English as a Second Language Policy 1.5.1