

What does “sheltered” mean?

Sheltered means academic instruction is specifically designed to make grade level subject matter concepts understandable to ELs while promoting their English language development.

What types of service delivery models are provided?

In order to maximize English language development with academic content, we provide the following service delivery models:

- Co-taught = two or more teachers instructing the same group of students within the same classroom space
- Pull-out = ELs removed from general education classroom for instruction
- EL-only = A class comprised only of English Learner students
- Inclusion = ELs instructed in the same class alongside general education peers

Can beginner learners of English earn credits?

Yes, this is an important feature of our high school EL program. Beginner learners of English earn credits, including verified credits, toward graduation while receiving support for developing academic language skills and literacy skills. Math screening assessments may be used to determine math course recommendation.

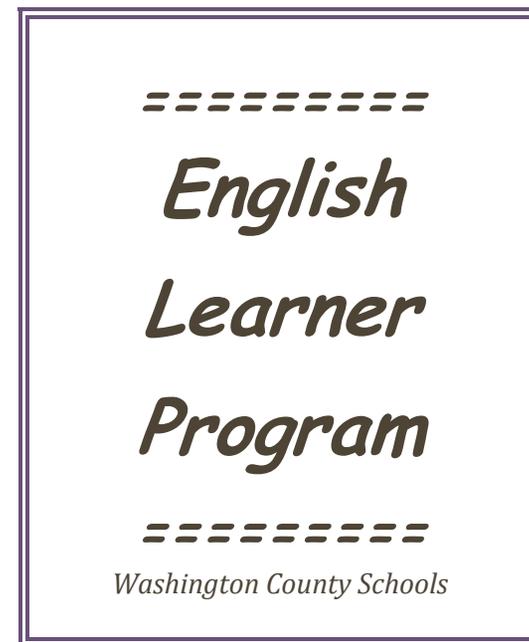


Washington County Public Schools

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Washington County Public Schools oversees and maintains services provided to English Learners (ELs) and immigrant children and youth (IY) in support of state and federal regulations. The main functions are to provide comprehensive registration services and ensure high quality school-based programs that assist ELs to reach proficiency in English, while meeting and exceeding state content standards. Washington County Schools responds to requests for information and assessment for EL program eligibility. Instructional services supports educators in implementing best-practices for successful EL instruction. Translation services facilitates parent communications.

Program Eligibility

Why was my child identified as an English Learner?

When families register a student in Washington County Public Schools, they complete a Home Language Survey. When the answers to some questions indicate a language other than English, is the student's primary language, we administer a screening test. Based on the results of the English language proficiency screening test, the student may be eligible for English Learner Program Services.

What is an English Language Proficiency (ELP) Level?

An ELP level describes a student's level of English language performance in speaking, listening, reading and writing based on a VA-approved WIDA Consortium assessment. There are five levels from "Level 1-Entering" to "Level 5-Bridging." When a student reaches "Level 5-Reaching," the student no longer receives direct English Learner Program Services, but his/her academic progress is monitored by school's teachers and administrators for four years.



How was my student's ELP level determined?

Students are first identified with either the WIDA MODEL or W-APT test. If determined eligible for EL services based on this initial screening, they are assessed each year with the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is also available for eligible students. Families receive the results of these tests from the school where the test was administered.

When will my student be re-assessed?

The language progress of students at ELP levels 1-5 is measured in the late winter or early spring of each year as approved by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

When will my student exit the English Learner Program?

The VDOE establishes the criteria for exiting the program. Your student's school can provide more specific information about the current criteria and your student's scores.

Can my student also be eligible for and participate in other special programs?

English Learners may be found eligible for participation in other educational programs such as gifted education, special services, as well as specialty and/or alternative programs. For more information on special programs contact Judy Honaker-Martin at 276-739-3019.

K-12 EL Program Services at Schools

Who provides the instruction for English Learners participating in the program?

Certified ESOL teachers in collaboration with teachers certified in other content areas (e.g., reading, English, math, social studies, science and special education) who are also trained in EL instruction.

What standards are utilized for instruction of English Learners?

The Virginia Department of Education joined the WIDA Consortium and adopted the five WIDA English Language Development Standards for implementation in core academic subjects. The WIDA ELD standards represent how English learners:

- 1) Communicate for social and instructional services in schools.
- 2) Communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

For more information on WIDA Consortium, visit: www.wida.us.

The Virginia Department of Education K-12 Standards of Learning (SOL) are implemented in both inclusionary and English Learner-only classrooms using a sheltered instructional approach.