

# POLICY

# MORRIS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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BILINGUAL AND ESL EDUCATION (M)

## 2423 BILINGUAL AND ESL EDUCATION (M)

### M

The Board of Education believes that English language proficiency is essential to educational development in the Morris School District. The Board shall provide appropriate programs of instruction for pupils who speak limited English and need instruction toward mastery of the English language.

The goal of such programs is to assist pupils to achieve fluency in English while developing proficiency in core curriculum content. Each pupil identified as having the need for English language instruction shall participate in a program designed to meet his/her identified needs in accordance with New Jersey Statute and Administrative Code.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils of limited English speaking ability shall be notified by mail of the fact that their child has been identified as eligible for enrollment in a bilingual, ESL or English language services education program. This written notice shall include the information that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may choose to decline to enroll their child into the bilingual program.

Communication with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of pupils in these programs shall be in writing and in both English and, when feasible, in their primary speaking language. Reports of pupil progress shall be made to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) on the same schedule as reports of pupils in the regular program.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall direct development of an annual plan for ESL and/or bilingual education which is in compliance with State guidelines. The Board will review and approve the plan at a public meeting. The Board must adopt the courses of study for ESL and bilingual programs in the same manner in which it adopts the curriculum for the regular program. In order to receive the State-endorsed high school diploma, Limited English Proficient (LEP) pupils must meet the district's graduation requirements.

Pupils enrolled in district bilingual or ESL programs shall be assessed annually for exit from such programs, using multiple indicators described in the administrative code. Whenever it is determined that a pupil should exit from the bilingual program, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be notified by mail.



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Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may remove a pupil who is enrolled in a bilingual education program at any time; except that during the first three years of the pupil's participation in a bilingual education program, he/she may only be removed at the end of the school year. Removal prior to the end of the school year shall be approved by the County Superintendent. If the County Superintendent determines that the pupil should remain in the bilingual education program until the end of the school year the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may appeal that decision to the Commissioner of Education and/or designee pursuant to law. The Commissioner shall render a decision within thirty days of the filing of the appeal.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall collaborate with parents and staff to develop guidelines for a comprehensive ESL/bilingual program, including but not limited to:

- Programs and services;
- Multiple assessment criteria;
- Record keeping;
- Individualized instruction;
- Home and school communication; and
- Program evaluation.

The Board may petition the Commissioner of Education to waive the requirement for a full-time bilingual program when it can demonstrate that it would be impractical to provide such a program, due to the age range, cost, grade span or geographic location of the eligible pupils.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-15 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.1 et seq.

Adopted: 12 January 2009

