

SHELBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learning Today for a Successful Tomorrow

Office of the Superintendent

525 N State Street

Shelby MI 49455

(231) 861-5211
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December 14, 2015

Dear Parents and Families of _____,

Your student is currently enrolled in a bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) program to develop his or her English language proficiency in order to achieve high academic standards.

Each school district that serves English learners (ELs) is required to test those students with the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA). The results of the WIDA are used to determine whether our district is achieving pre-determined targets for students making progress toward achieving English language proficiency.

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB)/ESEA established Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) so that districts can measure the progress of their students. The three AMAOs established by NCLB are:

AMAO I: Progress – For the **2013-2014** school year, the school district must have had 50% or higher of its EL students make progress on the WIDA for English learners. Progress is defined as a student having achieved learning greater than or equal to 50% of all students that took the WIDA and had similar, prior year test scores.

AMAO II: Proficiency – For the **2013-2014** school year, the school district must have had 21% of its EL students achieve proficiency on the WIDA.

AMAO III: Michigan School Scorecard English Learner Components – the district must have its EL subgroup meet targets for participation on the state's reading and math assessments, proficiency on the state's reading and math assessments, and graduation rates.

In addition to the objectives above, school districts must also test all of their EL student populations with the WIDA. Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, school districts that do not test at least 95% of their students will need to complete a series of actions to support them in assessing all EL students in the future. Testing all EL students ensures that school districts can be evaluated on adequately serving the needs of their EL students.

In **2013-2014**, Shelby School District did not make AMAO #1, AMAO #2, and AMAO #3. With AMAO #1, we had 25.6% of our students make progress in their language assessment. The goal

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER THOMAS READ ELEMENTARY NEW ERA ELEMENTARY

SHELBY MIDDLE SCHOOL SHELBY HIGH SCHOOL

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is 50%, as stated above. With AMAO #2, we had 8.41% of our students score proficient on the WIDA assessment. The state's goal is 21%. In order to score proficient, a student must score a 5.0 or higher on the WIDA assessment. We missed AMAO #3 because of our Math scores from the MEAP or other State Math assessments. We didn't have enough Language Learners score proficient on the State Math assessments.

In 2013-2014, Shelby Public Schools made many improvements to our Title III program. We purchased a Kindergarten - 5th Grade English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum called National Geographic REACH. This curriculum works towards the goals and standards that are assessed on the WIDA assessment. Shelby Public Schools also purchased a computer software program called Imagine Learning. This program also helps students learn the goals and standards of the WIDA assessment in a fun and engaging computer game. Shelby also added an ESL class for our 6th-12th grade Language Learners. This class is for the students who score a 1.0-4.0 on the WIDA assessment. This class also works on the goals and standards that are assessed on the WIDA assessment. In 2014-2015, Shelby Public Schools purchased a English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum called National Geographic Inside (Middle School) and Edge (High School). This curriculum also works on the goals and standards of the WIDA assessment.

In 2014-2015, Shelby Public Schools asked the teachers to find a new curriculum for Math and English Language Arts (ELA) that will help prepare all students with the standards that are required to be taught. Shelby Public Schools purchased a Math curriculum for K-8 and an ELA curriculum for K-5. We are also doing other curriculum improvements at the Middle School and High School. We started teaching with these two new curriculum in the fall of 2015.

We anticipate that these initiatives will result in increased student achievement throughout the district.

To learn more about your student's progress in English language acquisition or how you can become more involved at his or her school, please contact *Elizabeth Scott at 231-861-5541 ext 1205.*

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Scott
Title III Director
155 E. 6th Street
Shelby, MI 49455*