

Van Buren County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Limited English Proficient/ Language Minority Students	Descriptor Code: 4.207	Issued Date: 10/14/02
		Rescinds: 4.207	Issued: 06/17/99

1 The Board recognizes the need to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the
2 district. Therefore, if the inability to speak and understand the English language excludes a student
3 from effective participation in the educational programs offered by the district, the district shall take
4 appropriate action to rectify the English language deficiency in order to provide the student equal
5 access to its programs.

6 Students in a language minority (LM) or who have limited English proficiency (LEP) will be identi-
7 fied, assessed and provided appropriate services. No child will be admitted to or excluded from the
8 program based solely on surname or LM status.¹

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10 **DEFINITIONS**

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12 Language Minority (LM): Refers to a student whose linguistic background, such as country of birth
13 or home environment, includes language other than English. Language minority is based solely on
14 the student's language background and not on proficiency.

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16 Limited English Proficiency (LEP): Refers to an LM student whose proficiency in reading, writing,
17 listening or speaking English is below that of grade-and age-level peers. Limited English proficiency
18 is based on the assessment of a student's English language proficiency.

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20 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): An instructional approach that can include structured
21 ESOL immersion, content-based ESOL and pull-out ESOL instruction.

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23 1. Structured ESOL immersion involves a bilingual teacher and a self-contained classroom.
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25 2. Content-based ESOL allows the student to remain in the regular classroom and focuses on
26 delivering content in an adapted English format.
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28 3. Pull-out ESOL periodically removes students from the regular classroom for instruction in
29 English.

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31 Bilingual Education: An instructional approach that explicitly includes the student's native language
32 in instruction. This approach requires an instructor fluent in the student's native language and pro-
33 ficient in content areas and is often used where many LEP students share the same language and
34 where qualified bilingual teachers are available.

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36 Child: Any individual age 3-21.

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38 Parent: Parent, legal guardian or person otherwise responsible for the child.

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40 Language Instruction Education Program: An instructional course in which an LEP child is placed

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1 for the purpose of developing and attaining English proficiency while meeting challenging state
2 academic standards as required by law. The program may make instructional use of both English
3 and a child's native language and may include the participation of English proficient children if
4 such course is designed to enable all participating children to become proficient in English and
5 a second language.
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8 LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM 9

10 The Board directs the administration to develop and implement language instruction programs
11 that:²
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- 13 1. Appropriately identify language minority students through the use of a Student Home
14 Language Survey. The building administrator shall develop procedures to ensure that all
15 new
16 and currently enrolled students complete the Home Language Survey.
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- 18 2. Appropriately identify students with limited English proficiency.
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- 20 3. Determine the appropriate instructional environment for LEP students.
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- 22 4. Annually assess the English proficiency of LEP students and monitor the progress of stu-
23 dents receiving ESOL or bilingual instruction in order to determine their readiness
24 for the
25 mainstream classroom environment.
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- 27 5. Provide parents with notice of and information regarding the instructional program as
28 required
29 by law. Parental involvement will be encouraged and parents will be regularly apprised of
30 their child's progress.³
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45 Legal References: 46

- 47 1. PL 107-110 Part A § 3102
- 48 2. PL 107-110 Part A § 3116
3. PL 107-110 Part A § 1112 (g) & (4)