



English Language Learner Program

Goal of English Language Learner (ELL) Services:

The goal of the English Learner program at MTS is to assist students in achieving Academic English Language proficiency in order to be successful learners in the classroom.

English Learner Identification:

During the enrollment process, if a family designates a language other than English as the first language a student has learned MTS asks families to complete a Home Language Questionnaire. The questions on the Home Language Questionnaire include:

- First language learned by student
- Language normally used by student at home
- Language normally used by parents at home
- Prior schooling
- Educational gaps

When these forms are completed the EL Coordinator is notified. Records are requested of previous schools when available. If the student is new to the country, or if the records are unavailable, the EL teacher administers the WAPT test to the incoming student. The results of this assessment will assist in determining if the child will benefit from English Learner services. Each year, parents will receive a "Notification of EL Services" letter. This letter informs the parent of either the result of the WAPT test, or the student's score on the previous spring's ACCESS for ELLs test. It also explains the program and the types of EL services available to their child. If a parent wishes to refuse EL services, a meeting must be set up at the school site. This meeting will discuss the needs of the child. Parents must complete a "Refusal of Services" form in order to stop EL services.

On-going Identification:

Minnesota is part of the WIDA© consortium. WIDA© provides member states with high quality standards, assessments, research and professional development for educators. Since Minnesota is a member of WIDA©, students are assessed using the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 English language proficiency assessment. This assessment is for Kindergarteners through 12th

grade students who have been identified as English Learners (ELs). This assessment is given each year between February and March. The results of this assessment determine students' English language level and the information is used by teachers to determine the EL services the students receive.

Newcomer Services

Students with little to no English language skills are typically enrolled in our Newcomer Program which are located at Banaadir Academy. Our Newcomer Program teaches students the basics of reading, writing, listening and speaking in English, so that they can begin to participate in an American school setting. The intensive, all-day programming also teaches math, science and social studies content to students. Typically, students remain in the Newcomer Centers for about a year, until they pass assessments that show they have enough basic literacy and English proficiency to participate successfully in a regular education classroom.

Elementary K-5 EL Services:

Elementary EL students receive language instruction at their elementary schools from a licensed EL teacher. Students receive services based on their language level, which is provided from the W-APT or the ACCESS for ELs 2.0 assessment. Students may receive instruction through a combination of services, such as a co-teaching model, pull-out setting for small group instruction or individual language instruction. The time provided for each student depends on the needs of the student and the type of services provided. The service time typically ranges from 30 minutes to an hour of EL instruction. EL teachers focus on developing academic language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. The instruction is aligned to the state English Language Arts standards and the WIDA English Language Development Standards. EL teachers communicate regularly with mainstream classroom teachers regarding student progress.

Middle School 6-8 EL Services:

EL students may receive direct English instruction for up to two hours daily, depending on their level of language proficiency. Students receive daily language instruction in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students also develop academic language that is relevant to math, science, social studies and language arts. EL services may be provided through co-taught mainstream classes, small group instruction and/or sheltered English Learner classes. The services provided depend on the students' level of English language proficiency. Instruction is

aligned to the state English Language Arts standards and the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

High School 9-12 EL Services

Students at the Beginning and Developing levels (Levels 2 & 3) receive two hours of EL support in reading, writing, listening and speaking daily. These levels also provide students with general background knowledge in content areas such as language arts, science and social studies.

Exiting the EL Program:

When a student has met the EL Exit Criteria, the student will be reclassified and will no longer receive EL services. Parents will be notified of this reclassification. Students will continue their education in the regular mainstream classrooms. Please see the document *MTS Entrance and Exit Criteria* to see the criteria used to determine when a student is ready to be exited from the program.