Serving Nonpublic School English Learners

Introduction

English learners (ELs) are among the fastest-growing populations in Iowa's schools and are enrolled in both public and nonpublic schools. Regardless of where an EL is enrolled, all Iowa districts and accredited nonpublic schools must be prepared to serve nonpublic ELs (including immigrant children and youth). With that, the purpose of this guidance document is to outline the steps a district and accredited nonpublic school should follow when serving these students.

Required Nonpublic EL Access to Public Language Instruction Educational Program

In accordance with state law and rules, the public district must allow nonpublic ELs access to their language instruction educational program (LIEP; Iowa Admin. Code r. 281—60.5). Specifically, rule 281—60.5 states the following regarding nonpublic school participation:

> English as a second language and transitional bilingual programs offered by a public school district shall be made available to students attending an accredited nonpublic school located within the district. The district obtains funding for such students in accordance with Iowa Code sections 257.31(5) *"j"* and 280.4.

While the public district must allow nonpublic ELs access to their LIEP, the district is not required to provide programming at the nonpublic school (see Step 4).

Steps to Ensure Provision of Appropriate EL Programming to Nonpublic ELs

Required Nonpublic Provision of EL Programming

The nonpublic school must ensure its ELs are provided services. This requirement must be met either by providing the EL(s) with services at its own expense or arranging for its ELs to access the district's LIEP. Services or access to the district's LIEP must be provided to all ELs regardless of the EL weighted funding received by the public district.

Nonpublic and District Steps to Serve Nonpublic ELs

The nonpublic school and district should follow these steps when serving nonpublic ELs:

1. The nonpublic school determines whether it will either:
   o Serve its ELs at its own cost or
   o Arrange with the district to have its ELs access the district's LIEP.
2. If the nonpublic school chooses to provide the required support and programming to its ELs, it does so at its own expense. The remaining steps are not required.
3. If the nonpublic school chooses to arrange to have its ELs access the public district's LIEP, the nonpublic school must contact the district, inform it that the nonpublic wishes to access the district's LIEP, and schedule a meeting to determine how services will be provided to address the EL's needs as soon as possible.

4. The district and nonpublic school must meet to discuss the needs of the student(s) and negotiate the location of services. Depending on the situation, the district may choose to serve the students in the nonpublic school; however, they are not required to do so.
5. The district must allow nonpublic ELs to access the district's LIEP, enter the student's enrollment as a nonpublic shared time student in its local student information system, and report the nonpublic EL's enrollment to the Iowa Department of Education. This report of EL enrollment in the district will generate additional state-weighted funding for the district for up to five years based on the student's proficiency level. An EL identified at:
    o The *intensive level* is assigned an additional weighting of twenty-six hundredths (.26).
    o The *intermediate level* is assigned an additional weighting of twenty-one hundredths (.21).
6. The nonpublic school is responsible for any necessary transportation to access programming.

Additional Guidance

For additional guidance related to identifying and serving ELs, please contact Pam McDonnell, Consultant for English Language Acquisition and Immigrant Education, at pam.mcdonnell@iowa.gov and visit the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Guidance and Allocations page.