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School District of Seward

Division of
Special Services
English Language Learners
(ELL) Programming

School District of Seward

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What is the Program?

Seward Public School - ELL Program Philosophy -

Seward Public Schools English Language Learners (ELL) program strives to meet the following goals:

- * Establish that the education of ELL students is the responsibility of every teacher and administrator in the district
- * Promote the academic achievement of ELL students
- * Enable ELL students to develop academic skills while learning English
- * Provide ELL students with instruction necessary to allow them to progress through school at a rate commensurate with their native-English-speaking peers
- * Coordinate the ELL program with the regular education program to ensure ELL students receive subject matter content as quickly as possible.

Getting into the Program?

Eligibility-

When a family wishes to enroll a child or children in Seward Public Schools the family will be asked to complete the School District Family registration form which includes the following questions:

*Does the student speak a language other than English? (Do not count languages learned in World Language Classes)

*Does the student understand a language other than English?(Do not count languages learned in World Language Classes)

*Is anyone in the student's home a native speaker of a language other than English?

*Is the student's first-learned or home language anything other than English?(Do not count languages learned in World Language Classes)

If one or more of these questions is answered "yes" by the family, the child is eligible for language testing to determine if he or she qualifies for the English Language Learner Program.

The Special Services Director will make arrangements for language testing. If the student qualifies for the ELL Program, based on the results of the testing and with the parents' permission, he or she will be enrolled in the ELL Program. All appropriate teachers will be notified of the student's eligibility and differentiated instruction techniques will be utilized to support academic success.



Programming Activities/Monitoring

Those students who qualify for ELL Programming are then served in an alternate language program. The provision of such support is achieved through Title One Programming in kindergarten through fourth grade and through tutors in grades five through 12. Differentiated instruction techniques are also utilized by each student's classroom instructor(s) to support their success within the regular classroom setting.

Progress of qualified students is assessed during the spring of each academic year based on the Nebraska Department of Education requirements. The students who perform at a level comparable to non-ELL peers and are able to participate meaningfully in content areas are then exited from the program.

Those students who are exited receive monitoring of their academic levels throughout the next academic year. Any of the exited students who do not exhibit passing grades each quarter must then be considered for re-entry into the ELL Program at that time.