

POLICY 105-16

ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL)

The Department of Education (“Department”) shall be responsible for the provision of equal access to educational opportunities for all English Learner (“EL”) students in order that they may fully realize their potential as responsible, contributing, and productive members of a democratic, multicultural society.

The Department shall provide appropriate services to EL students and be responsible for developing rules, guidelines, and/or procedures to implement the goals set forth below:

1. Provide meaningful access to all educational opportunities, English language development, and academic content.
2. Support students in attaining the same State academic content and student achievement standards expected for all students.
3. Ensure students graduate with the language, knowledge, and skills to pursue post-secondary education and careers.
4. Develop an understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures.
5. Engage parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and families in the education of their children.

The Department shall ensure that all professionals providing EL services possess qualifications to meet the unique needs of these students.

Rationale: EL students are entitled to equal access to education regardless of their ethnicity or national origin. The adoption of this policy will require compliance with federal law (Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964; the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002; the May 25, 1970 Memorandum – Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974; among others).

[Approved: 12/05/2019]