



Notification of ESL Program Placement

Initial Placement

Continuing Placement

Student: _____

Date: _____

School: _____

Bergenfield Public Schools

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian:

Based on your child's English proficiency test scores, level of academic achievement, and teacher recommendation, we are pleased to inform you that your child will receive instruction in our district's ESL program. The goal of the district's ESL program is to help your child learn English and meet age-appropriate academic standards. Although you may request to have your child removed from the ESL program, students normally participate for approximately one to three years. However, participation in the program varies from student to student and multiple criteria are used in making determinations regarding when a student no longer needs program services. These criteria include, but are not limited to ACCESS scores, classroom grades, overall academic performance, and teacher recommendation.

If your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), improvement in his/her ability to speak, read, and write in English will help him/her meet the objectives of his/her IEP.

Your child's level of English was measured using the following test:

ACCESS WIDA Model

Testing results indicate that your child's present level of English proficiency is:

- Entering** (knows and uses minimal social language with visual and graphic support)
- Emerging** (knows and uses some social English and general academic language with visual and graphic support)
- Developing** (knows and uses social English and some specific academic language with visual and graphic support)
- Expanding** (knows and uses social English and some technical academic language)
- Bridging** (knows and uses social and academic language working with grade level material)
- Reaching** (knows and uses social and academic language at the highest level measured by this test)

Your child's level of academic achievement was assessed using:

- Classroom Work Teacher Input Benchmark Assessments Star Testing
 RenLearn Report Card PARCC Writing Samples

Other: _____

Based on the above assessments, your child's level of academic achievement is below grade level expectations due to English language limitations.

The ESL program is offered solely to English Language Learners (ELLs). The program is designed to meet the needs of those students for whom English is their second language. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing/media literacy are addressed according to the NJ Students Learning Standards in Language Arts and English Language Proficiency Standards. All instruction is presented in English. The students learn in small groups and are given instructions in language skills so that they can achieve success in all content areas. Throughout the program the students are encouraged to share, compare, and contrast his/her native culture and heritage with those of his/her classmates. The students' ethnicity is valued thereby hoping to empower them in this multicultural society. The overall goal of the ESL program is for the students to become successful learners in their mainstream classes. The ESL teacher collaborates with each student's mainstream teachers in order to meet the student's learning needs and specifically, English proficiency needs, across all settings. This includes incorporating appropriate instructional modifications and accommodations in order for the student to learn to the best of his/her ability.

At the elementary schools, the ESL program is a pull out model with opportunities for the ESL teacher to co-teach with the mainstream teachers as needed.

At the middle school and high school, the ESL program takes place in a self-contained classroom.

Please contact Zoë Lloyd, Supervisor of ESL and Bilingual Programs, in order to request additional information regarding available services or to decline program services. You can reach her via email at zlloyd@bergenfield.org or by phone at 201-385-8700 ext. 1375.

Sincerely,

ESL Teacher