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#106learns

English Language Learners

To support students who are not native English speakers, LaGrange Highlands School District #106 has established the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. This program is designed to develop students' English proficiency, providing them with both the skills and confidence they need to participate fully in school and the community. All K-12 English language learners must be assessed annually for English proficiency growth and academic progress.

Beginning in FY2005-06, the Illinois State Board of Education provided districts with a language proficiency assessment for all English Language Learner (ELL) students, called ACCESS for ELLs™. Regulations require this new English language proficiency test to be administered to all Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. The Illinois State Board of Education also made available to all districts screening options to identify students in need of ESL support and services.

As a district with a Transitional Program of Instruction (*Transitional Program of Instruction means a program designed by a school district when there are, within an attendance center, 19 or fewer students of the same non-English language background identified as below average in English proficiency*), members of our student service team have been trained on the English Language Proficiency Standards, the ACCESS for ELLs™ assessment, and age appropriate screeners.

Screening Process

- District 106 will use age appropriate screeners to identify new students as having Limited English Proficiency.

- Under the Illinois School Code, all students whose parents have indicated on a Home Language Survey (HLS) that a language other than English is spoken in the home or that the student speaks another language other than English must be given a brief English language proficiency screening to determine the need for support. All students entering kindergarten and new students to Highlands's school will fill out the Home Language Survey during the registration process.
- Students who are assessed with the Screener and demonstrate the need for support will also be required to participate in the ACCESS for ELLs™ annual assessment to further determine emerging English proficiency levels.

Service Model

Our ESL interventionists/teachers work in collaboration with the classroom teachers to effectively teach English Language Learners. EL students participate in general education classrooms and receive scheduled ESL instruction based on each student's proficiency level and grade level. Small group instruction or support within the classroom setting is provided by the teacher/interventionist and is designed to develop listening, speaking, writing and reading skills in English.

Parents will be notified if their child qualifies for ESL support services. Parents have the option to have their child not participate in ESL services by calling the school district and requesting to speak to Kate Townsend, English Language Teacher.