

Program Policy #138
English as a Second Language/Bilingual Program

Purpose:

In accordance with the Board of Trustees's philosophy to provide a quality educational program for all students, the SusQ-Cyber Charter School will provide an appropriate planned instructional program for identifying students whose dominant language is not English. The purpose of the program is to increase the English proficiency of eligible students so that they can attain the academic standards adopted by the Board of Trustees and achieve academic success.

Authority:

- The SCCS shall provide a program for each student whose dominant language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student's achievement of English proficiency and attainment of the academic standards.
- The program shall include: bilingual, bicultural, or English as a Second Language instruction.
- The program shall meet the three-pronged test of program compliance: (1) sound research based educational theory, (2) sufficient resources and staffed by appropriate personnel, (3) periodic program evaluation.
- The Board shall include provisions for LEP program in the Strategic Plan.
- The Board shall establish procedures for identification of students whose dominant language is not English.
- The Home Language Survey shall be completed for every student in the program and filed in each student's permanent record folder until graduation.
- For students whose dominant language is not English, assessment of the student's English proficiency level must be completed to determine the need for English as a Second Language instruction.

Guidelines

- LEP students shall be enrolled upon presentation of a local address and proof of immunization.
- The ESL/Bilingual program shall be designed to provide instruction to meet each student's individual needs based upon the assessment of their English proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- Adequate content area support shall be provided while the student is learning English to ensure achievement of academic standards.
- A PA certified teacher hired as a teacher and, if necessary, appropriate support staff (e.g., teacher aides) shall provide the ESL Program.
- Instructional resources shall be comparable to the resources provided other core academic subjects.
- The program shall be evaluated for effectiveness based upon the attainment of English proficiency. If ELLs are not learning English, the program shall be changed to ensure greater success.
- The ELLs shall be required to meet established academic standards and graduation requirements with accommodations as adopted by the Board of Trustees.

- Students shall have access to and should be encouraged to participate in all academic and extracurricular activities available in the SCCS.
- Communication with parents shall include information about assessments, academic achievement and other related educational issues in the language understood by the parent whenever possible.

Delegation of Responsibility:

- The CEO or designee shall implement and supervise an ESL/Bilingual program that meets the legal requirements for ESL/Bilingual program compliance.
- The CEO or designee, in conjunction with appropriate stakeholders, shall develop and disseminate written procedures regarding the ESL Program which include:
 1. Program goals
 2. Student enrollment procedures (Home Language Survey)
 3. Assessment procedures for entrance, progress assessment and program exit assessment.
 4. Classroom accommodations for English Language Learners
 5. Grading policies
 6. Resource list including support agencies and interpreters.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENT.