

Instruction

Bilingual-Bicultural Education

The Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee, shall ascertain annually the number of children of limited and non-English speaking ability within the school district and classify them according to their dominant language and report them to the Board of Education.

Whenever it is ascertained that there are in any public school building within the District of twenty or more eligible students classified as dominant in any one language other than English, the Board of Education may provide a program of bilingual education for such eligible students for the following school year.

The Superintendent of Schools will require each School Principal to conduct a preliminary assessment of dominant language of all students in the district as follows:

1. From parents/guardians by personal contact in the student's presumed dominant language.
2. From parents/guardians by use of questionnaires in the student's dominant language.
3. From personal interviews in the presumed dominant language (grades 4-12 only).
4. From school records (only when unable to use one of the methods described in 1a - 1c.)

The Superintendent shall apply annually for a grant of funds to support such a program. The Superintendent shall also submit annual reports of progress as required by law.

Parents shall be notified of English Learner services available to students. A student will be placed in a bilingual program if the parent(s)/guardian(s) elect this option.

An eligible student for the bilingual program shall be limited to no more than thirty (30) months, excluding summer school and time spent in two-way language programs, in a bilingual program. An eligible student may spend up to an additional thirty months in a program of bilingual education if the Superintendent or his/her designee requests an extension, not to exceed an additional thirty months in a bilingual program, of the State Department of Education (SDE). The SDE may also make the determination that such an extension is necessary for a student. The program must continuously increase the use of English for instruction and provide that more than 50% of instruction be in English by the end of a student's first year in the program.

The progress made by each student in the bilingual education program in meeting the English mastery standard developed by the State Department of Education shall be assessed annually. Students not meeting the English mastery standard at the end of the initial thirty months or at the end of an extension or those demonstrating limited progress shall be provided with additional language support services which may include, but are not limited to, English as a second language program, sheltered English programs, English Immersion programs, summer school, after-school assistance, and other research-based language development programs.

Transition services offered to students who have not mastered English after thirty months in a bilingual program may not include bilingual education. Students meeting the state standard shall leave the program. The date of initiation into the district's bilingual program and the date and results of the required assessments shall be documented on the student's permanent record card.

Instruction

Bilingual-Bicultural Education (continued)

Eligible students enrolling in a secondary school with less than thirty (30) months remaining before graduation shall be assigned to an English as a Second Language program. He/she may also be provided with additional services designed to enable the student to speak, write, and comprehend English by the time the student graduates and to assist the student meet the course requirements for graduation.

Students who are in their first year of enrollment in a U.S. school and participating in the bilingual education program or English as a Second Language program for a period of ten (10) months or less may be exempted from participation in the statewide assessment programs. This exemption applies to the areas of reading, writing and science but not to mathematics. The mathematics test may be taken with accommodation if necessary.

Any limited English proficient student who has been enrolled from ten to twenty months and who scores below standard on the English mastery test administered in the month prior to the administration of the statewide mastery examinations may be exempted from participation in the statewide assessment programs. The scores for students who have been enrolled in a school in Connecticut or another state for less than twenty school months shall not be used for purposes of calculating the school or district performance index.

The District, when required to provide a bilingual education program, shall also investigate the feasibility of instituting two-way language programs starting in kindergarten.

(cf. 6141.311 – Limited English Proficiency Program)

(cf. 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations)

(cf. 6162.31 - Test Exclusion)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-14q Exceptions (as amended by P.A. 02-7, 5/9/02 Special Session)
 10-17 English language to be medium of instruction. Exception.
 10-17a Establishment of bilingual and bicultural program.
 10-17d Application for and receipt of federal funds.
 10-17e Definitions.
 10-17f Required bilingual education. (as amended by PA 98-168 & PA
 01-205, PA 05-290 and June Special Session PA 15-5)
 10-17g Application for grant. Annual evaluation report.
 10-76e Definitions.
 10-146f Waiver of certification requirements for bilingual teachers.
 State Board of Education Regulations
 10-17h-1 to 10-17h-15. Programs of bilingual education.
 P.A. 99-211. An Act Improving Bilingual Education. Title VII of the
 Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, P.L. 103-382

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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 14
Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut