

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Background

The Division supports the provision of educational programs for students who have recently arrived in Canada, and Alberta resident students who require special assistance in learning English as a second language, in order to deliver classroom instruction in English.

Procedures

1. English as a Second Language (ESL) students are defined as those who have recently arrived in Canada and Alberta resident students whose proficiency in English is not commensurate with their age or abilities, as English is not their first language.
2. Each Principal will code ESL students on the Education Information System for transmitting to Alberta Education.
3. Each school will develop a program plan for ESL students which will:
 - a. encourage rapid integration of the student(s) into the school and community environment; and
 - b. give attention to the linguistic, cultural and academic needs of the student(s).
4. ESL programs may be developed for students who do not speak English when entering Divisional schools even though they do not qualify under the Alberta Education definition of ESL for funding purposes.
5. ESL programs will be provided in accordance with the Alberta Education's Program of Studies and appropriate ESL curricular documents.

December, 2003

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References

Education Act, Sections 3, 17

Policy 1.5.1 English as a Second Language