ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE HANDBOOK

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Newark, New Jersey
English as a Second Language Handbook

Link Community Charter School (LCCS) offers English as a Second Language (ESL) to students K-8 whose primary language is not English, as well as to learners who are still developing proficiency in the English language. Student eligibility is determined through the administration of the New Jersey approved WIDA screener, and individual progress of English Language Learners (ELL) is monitored through the administration of the annual ACCESS for ELL 2.0 standardized test. Students enrolled in the program receive supplemental instruction exclusively in English through a proficiency-based approach, and develop linguistic concepts, as well as the academic language necessary across content areas.

The identification of students eligible for ESL is done upon enrollment with the Home Language Survey and a records review process. Students identified as having a second/multiple languages are then assessed through the WIDA screener assessment. This identification process helps the ESL teacher(s) identify students who are at risk for not meeting grade-level learning goals. A composite score of 4.0 and below indicate language services are needed. A score of 4.5 and higher means proficiency in the English language is attained. Exit from ELL status is based on the proficiency assessment and observation.

For ELL identification, parents/guardians must be notified in writing in English and in the language in which they possess a primary speaking ability, within 30 days of the beginning of the school year or 14 days from the time of identification for mid-year enrollees.

Relevant Documents to be attached in Appendix.
Presently, ESL services are being provided for 1 eighth grade student through in class daily support, as well as pull-out sessions that address specific needs. Testing accommodations for this particular student is done with the ESL teacher in a small group setting with extra testing time provided (time and a half).