

## **K-12 ESOL Program for Broward County Public Schools**

### **Introduction**

Broward County Public Schools, the sixth largest school district in the United States, is charged with the opportunity and challenge of providing effective and comprehensible instruction to the growing number of English Language Learners (ELLs). Our task is to instruct ELLs so that they gain both proficiency in English and mastery of the Florida State Standards. Studies have shown that successful programs for ELLs must include curriculum and instruction that recognizes the diversity and complexity of these students. The programs must be comprehensive and allow for students to build their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in English. When schools enroll ELLs, the implications are immense and require significant changes to program structure, belief systems, and behaviors. These studies also show that many ELLs would profit from a better fit between their instructional needs and the instructional environment in order to prevent learning difficulties. A focus on the learner-environment fit requires consideration of individual and school-level factors that influence ELLs' abilities in the content areas. Incorporating specific practices described in the K-12 ESOL Program will benefit ELLs.

### **World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)**

An English language learner (ELL) develops language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing interdependently, but at different rates and in different ways. Broward County Public Schools embraces the adopted WIDA's English Language Development Standards that represent the social, instructional, and academic language that students need to engage with peers, educators, and curriculum in schools. WIDA's Can Do Philosophy is based on the belief that all students bring established knowledge, skills and ways of seeing and understanding the world from their homes and their communities. Academic language—that is, language use in academic contexts in this framework—is viewed as a vehicle for communicating and learning within sociocultural contexts; the interaction between different situations and people in the learning environment. The standards framework addresses the four language domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing which help educators plan balanced opportunities for language learning and take advantage of the stronger English language skills in one domain to support development in the other domains.

### **Effective Program Model**

Research by Jim Cummins (1981) shows a distinction between two types of language that ELLs need to acquire: Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP). This research has shown that the average student can develop conversational fluency within two to five years. Most ELLs require 4 to 7 years of instruction to reach the average academic performance of native English speakers (Collier, 1987). Developing fluency in a second language depends on many variables. There is no single approach, strategy, or program that will always meet the needs of every student in the classroom. However, according to *Academic Literacy Instruction for Adolescents: A Guidance Document from the Center on Instruction* instructional decisions to assist with the development of academic language should consider questions such as these:

- How long has the student been receiving formal instruction in English?
- What are the student's specific areas of difficulty or weakness?

- Does the student have difficulties in most academic areas?
- Has the student ever received supplemental or targeted instruction in the areas of difficulty or weakness?
- How different is the student's native language alphabet from that of English?
- Does the student display specific strengths related to achievement in the area(s) where he or she is experiencing difficulty?

According to *A National Study of School Effectiveness for Language Minority Students' Long-Term Academic Achievement*, the following major factors influence the success of programs for English language learners:

- The potential quality of the type of program for ELLs. This refers to the power of a program's features to influence student achievement.
- The realized quality of the type of program for ELLs. This is the degree of full implementation of a program in terms of administrative support; teacher skills and training to deliver the full instructional effect of the program; and the degree to which the program is evaluated.
- The breadth of program focus. This refers to the instructional focus on the linguistic, cognitive, and academic development of levels of English in a supportive school environment.
- The quality of the school's instructional environment. This refers to the degree to which the school includes parental engagement, supports the instructional program, and supports second language development without the loss of primary language.
- The quality of instructional time. This is the degree to which instructional time is used effectively so that students receive comprehensible instruction for an instructionally optimum time period.

An effective ESOL program for ELLs must contain the following essential components:



**The K-12 ESOL program for BCPS will consist of the following types of instruction:**

**Sheltered Instruction (K-12)** refers to the instructional delivery where only ELLs from different language backgrounds are grouped together to receive instruction in content subject classes, such as Science, Social Studies, Math and English/Language Arts by highly qualified teachers.

Students are “sheltered” in the sense that they do not compete with fluent speakers of English. Teachers adjust the level of instruction to ensure that students understand the grade level curriculum. This type of instruction enables ELLs to become proficient in English and facilitates the acquisition of academic language necessary to succeed in content area classrooms.

Delivery models will vary by grade levels. In grades K-5, students are clustered by grade level and instruction is differentiated by language proficiency in a sheltered (self-contained) classroom. In grades 6-8, students are clustered by grade level and sheltered instruction is differentiated by English language proficiency. In grades 9-12, students are clustered by sheltered instruction (content area) classes and instruction is differentiated by English language proficiency.

**Basic Mainstream Instruction (K-12)** is implemented in schools with an insufficient ELL enrollment to provide sheltered instruction. In this model, ELLs receive instruction with ESOL strategies in classrooms with non-ELLs. This model requires careful planning and ongoing support from a highly qualified teacher, to ensure that the needs of the ELLs and non-ELLs are met simultaneously and equitably. Implementation of this model will vary for the grade levels. Schools should cluster students strategically in order to maximize instruction and resources available.

Clustering is:

- Developing consistent school-wide guidelines for student placement (according to language classification/English language proficiency level, and/or academic needs) in order to strengthen instructional services
- Resources
- School staff must understand the rationale and system for student placement so that new students are placed appropriately

Benefits of Clustering:

For Students:

- Equal access to all instructional options
- Additional instructional time and support provided by school staff
- Additional bilingual support provided by bilingual paraprofessional/teacher
- Social and emotional support from peers who are themselves learning English
- Instruction provided by a mainstream teacher trained to work with ELLs
- Access to additional materials that are appropriate for ELLs (manipulatives, visual supports, range of leveled books, etc.)
- Improved differentiation of instruction; it is harder to overlook a large group of students when planning for instruction

For Teachers:

- Increased opportunities to collaborate with and learn from other teachers
- More professional development opportunities
- Opportunities to work in small groups for focusing instruction
- Access to more materials for differentiation of the instruction

**Dual Language** is an educational approach in which students learn two languages in an instructional setting that integrates subject content presented in English and another language. Broward County Public Schools' Dual Language program offers a school within school approach to second language acquisition education. The goal of the program is to prepare students for the future by providing them with the opportunity to become fully bilingual by learning listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English and the target language and develop an appreciation for different cultures. The Dual Language program provides children with the opportunity to learn two languages, while maintaining high academic standards. Academic subjects are taught to all students through both English and Spanish.

**Developmental Language Arts ESOL-Reading (6-12)** is a course designed for ELLs who are non-English speaking and/or at the Entering/Beginning level of English language proficiency Level I-II (A1-A2). Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are made comprehensible through instruction in English using strategies and techniques appropriate to their level of English proficiency and reading ability. English language development is strongly emphasized and incorporated into reading and writing instruction. Literacy programs that provide instructional support of oral language development in English, aligned with high-quality literacy instruction are the most successful (August & Shanahan, 2006, p. 4). **This course is in lieu of intensive reading, therefore it must follow guidelines set forth in the district K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan.** Students may not be enrolled in both Intensive Reading and Developmental Language Arts ESOL-Reading. The Middle and High School Placement Charts in the K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan are very specific as to the time that students must be enrolled in Intensive Reading courses.

### **Professional Development**

**Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)**: A proven, research-based model of instruction specifically designed to meet the needs of ELLs is the *Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)*. *SIOP* provides teachers with an observation instrument that also serves as a tool for planning, implementing, and reflecting on lesson delivery. This model gives teachers a structure for how to teach what students need to learn in terms of both the language skills in English and the specific content students need to learn, along with their grade-level English speaking peers. *SIOP* is an approach that stresses student engagement through activities that utilize content and language knowledge. Ongoing assessment and specific feedback are given to students, enabling teachers to adjust instruction and ensure achievement of objectives. Professional development will be offered for teachers by the district via face-to-face sessions and online coursework. District ESOL staff will be assigned as facilitators to assist schools with effective implementation of *SIOP*.

***Building Foundations for ELLs K-5:*** Elementary teachers and Reading Coaches participate in a 3-day professional development opportunity that assists teachers in integrating listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills into the instruction. The workshop focuses on teaching reading comprehension strategies, vocabulary development, building and activating background knowledge, assessment for ELLs, and WIDA the CAN DO Framework, the effective use of Marzano's instructional strategies coupled with the ESOL instructional strategies. Participants receive a professional book that contains practical information on teaching reading to culturally and linguistically diverse students who enter the classroom with a broad range of experiences.

***ESOL Bridging Language and Literacy in DLA:*** Secondary teachers and Reading Coaches participate in a 3-day professional development opportunity offered to assist them in the delivery of instruction for the Developmental Language Arts ESOL-Reading course. At this workshop, participants receive an overview of the supplemental materials purchased by the Bilingual/ESOL Department; and the core curriculum textbooks. Participants have an opportunity to plan lessons and learn about effective ESOL strategies for ELLs and WIDA CAN DO Framework.

#### **Accountability of Student Academic Program & Monitoring of Program Implementation**

Guidance Counselors, Literacy Coaches, and/or Curriculum Specialists are responsible of participating in the ELL programmatic assessment to ensure that the ELLs are appropriately scheduled in courses that will meet their academic and linguistic needs. For more information regarding Programmatic Assessment refer to the *ESOL Program Handbook* at <http://esol.browardschools.com>

Classroom teachers evaluate student performance by monitoring classroom grades, progress reports and report cards throughout the year to identify ELLs' supplementary needs and most effective instructional delivery strategies. To monitor student's progress, teachers may use report cards, test scores, classroom performance, language proficiency test scores, and any other document that reflects student achievement. The school's ESOL contact is responsible of ensuring that the monitoring process has been completed as required.

Principals are held accountable and monitored by their respective Cadre Director Administration through regular visitations. Additional support and guidance with forms/checklists and classroom observations to monitor effective use of ESOL strategies and appropriate implementation of instructional program models are provided by the Bilingual/ESOL Director or designee. Any area of concern is brought to the attention of the school's principal and district ESOL staff for discussion and enhancement planning to ensure compliance.

The School Leadership Team can access additional support for the plan through the ESOL Team Sites and SharePoint.

For specific guidelines of the Broward County ESOL program concerning compliance, such as entry/exit and grading of students, refer to the *ESOL Handbook* found at <http://esol.browardschools.com>

The following is a list of other pertinent documents supporting the K-12 ESOL Program Plan also available at <http://esol.browardschools.com> and BEEP.

- *Brainshark Presentations*
- *ESOL Instructional Strategies Matrix*
- *Developmental Language Arts ESOL-Reading Units of Study (6-12)*
- *WIDA, English language proficiency standards and Can Do Descriptors*
- *Suggested Supplemental Materials (K-12)*
- *Suggested Bilingual Dictionaries*
- *Reading Activities for Parents and ELLs*
- *Guidelines for Exceptional Student Education and English Language Learners*
- *Department Handbook*

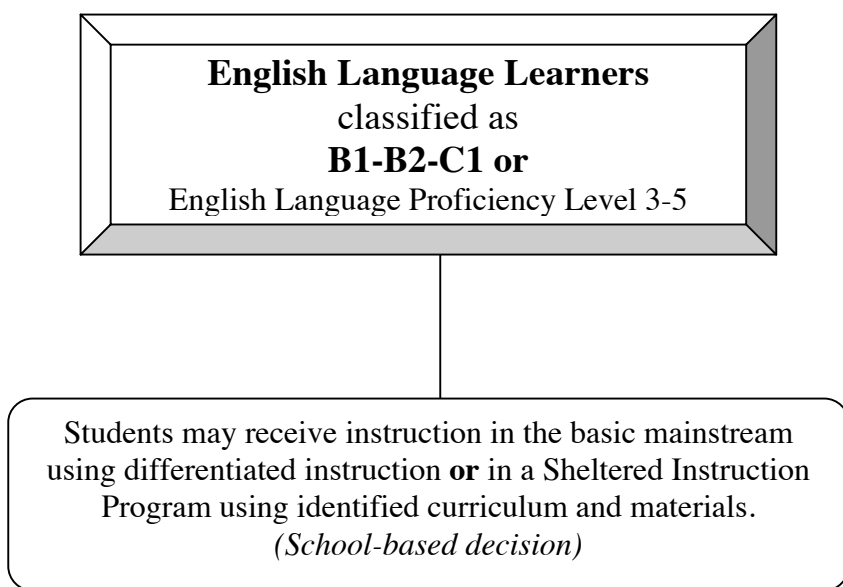
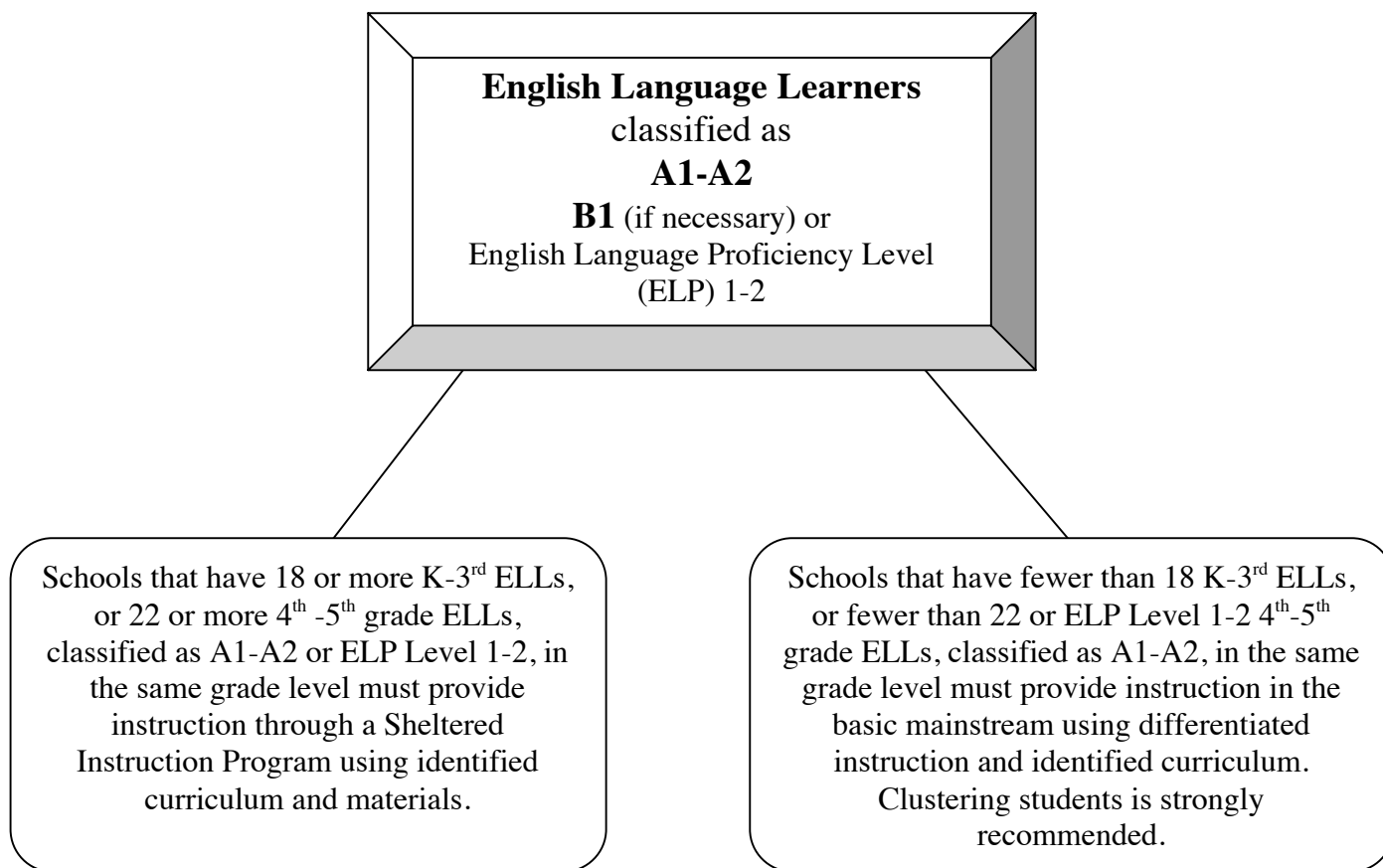
### Summary Matrix of Program Models (Adapted from DeCerbo, 2000)

Model	Research-Based Definition	Benefits	Actions for Implementation
<b>Sheltered Instruction/ESOL</b>  Designed for K-12 schools with a high ELL population.	ELLs from different language backgrounds are grouped together to receive instruction in the content area subject classes by a highly qualified teacher.	Acquisition of basic linguistic skills of the English language.  Instruction is adapted to the students' level of English proficiency to ensure learning of grade level curriculum.  Students are not served in a pullout program for ESOL instruction.	A process must be in place to monitor progress in linguistic and academic grade level skills so students may be transitioned into mainstream classes.  Monitoring of appropriate placement. Mixing grades is not allowed under the Florida META Consent Decree for ELLs unless the course is an elective.
<b>Basic Mainstream Instruction with ESOL Strategies</b>  Designed for K-12 schools with a low ELL population.	ELLs are in the same class as non-ELLs.  Instruction of linguistic and academic skills is developed in English by a highly qualified teacher using ESOL strategies.	Equal access to resources as provided to non-ELLs.	A process must be in place to ensure that ELLs are not left behind in acquiring the English language and learning grade level knowledge for academic performance.  Adjustment of the curriculum needs to be implemented to ensure comprehensible instruction of ELLs.  Teachers must have ongoing support to work with ELLs and non-ELLs simultaneously.  Planning and monitoring must be an ongoing process.
<b>ESOL Course</b>  Developmental Language Arts ESOL-Reading at the secondary level.	Intensive Reading instruction for the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills for ELLs is taught by a highly qualified teacher.	Acquisition of basic linguistic skills of the English language and language arts standards before being labeled a struggling reader.	Classroom instructional practices of ELLs must be monitored.  Ongoing training on instructional practices for ELLs.  ESOL class schedules must be monitored to ensure parity with the scope and sequence provided to non-ELLs.

### Factors to Consider When Determining Program Model

School Demographics	School Resources	Professional Development	Consent Decree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of ELLs</li> <li>Number of languages represented</li> <li>Levels of English proficiency in grade level</li> <li>Student's educational background</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of highly qualified teachers needed for implementation</li> <li>Access to grade level curriculum &amp; materials</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Parental Involvement</li> <li>Para/Bilingual Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESOL Training and appropriate certification</li> <li>Parent training</li> <li>SIOP training</li> <li>Developmental Language Arts ESOL-Reading training</li> <li>Elementary Building Foundations for ELLs K-5</li> <li>WIDA CAN DO Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with META Consent Decree for implementation of instructional practices for ELLs</li> </ul>

## Elementary School ESOL Program *Chart A*



Per META Consent Decree, schools with at least 15 students speaking the same native language shall provide at least one aide or teacher, proficient in the same language, and trained to assist in ESOL basic subject area instruction.



## Middle School ESOL Program *Chart B*

**English Language Learners**  
classified as  
**A1-A2**  
**B1** (if necessary) or  
English Language Proficiency **Level 1-2**  
(see chart D for B1-C1)

Middle Schools with 22 or more ELLs, classified as A1-A2 or ELP Level 1-2, in the same grade level, must provide **M/J Language Arts through ESOL 1-3** using identified curriculum and materials.

Middle Schools with fewer than 22 ELLs, classified as A1-A2 or ELP Level 1-2, in the same grade level, must provide **M/J Language Arts 1-3** in the basic mainstream using differentiated instruction and identified curriculum. Clustering students is strongly recommended.

Schools with 22 or more ELLs who meet the criteria of A1-A2 language classification or ELP Level 1-2 must receive **Intensive Reading** through **M/J Developmental Language Arts ESOL-Reading** using identified curriculum and materials. Class size should be limited to 22 students per section.

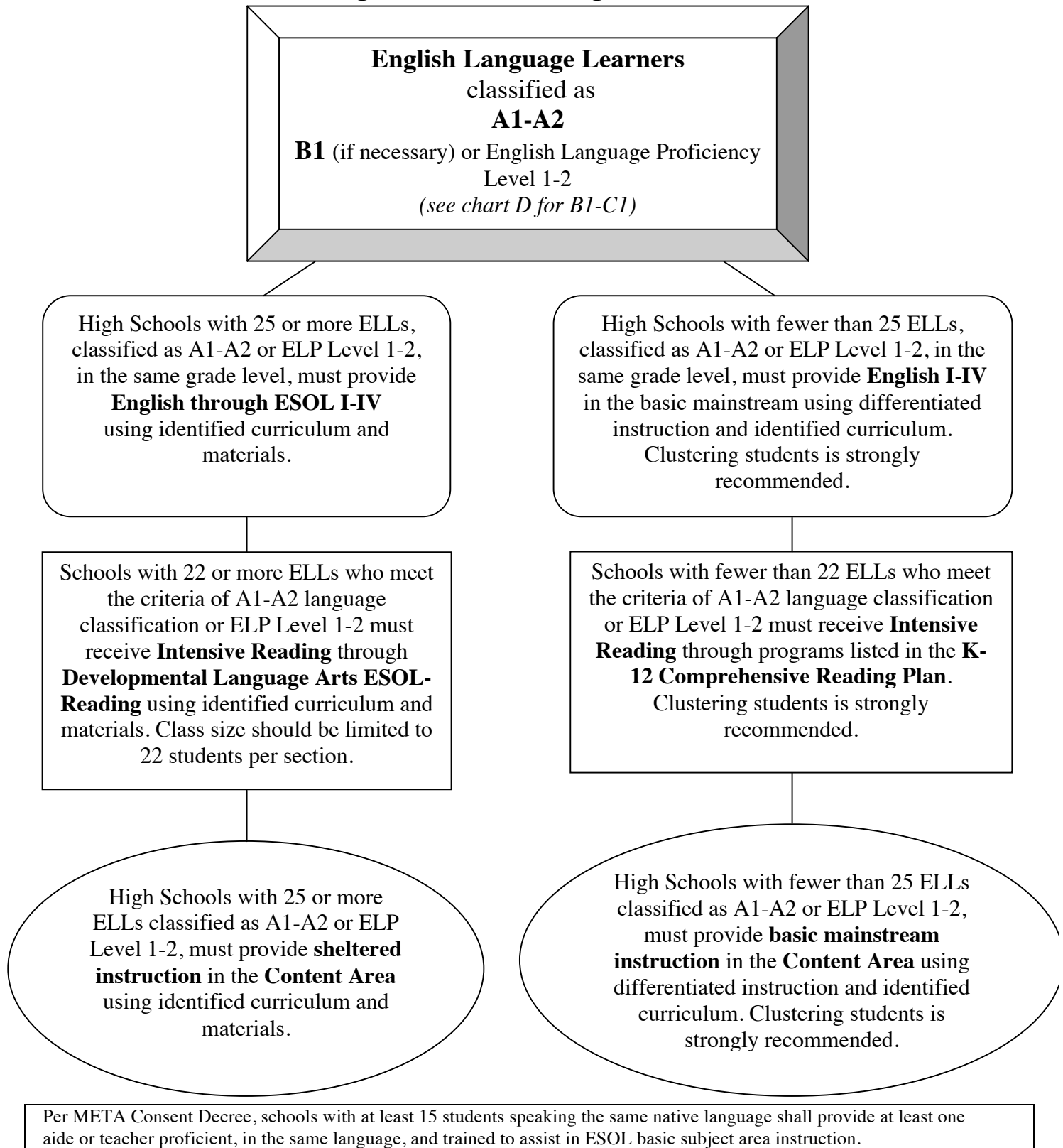
Schools with fewer than 22 ELLs who meet the criteria of A1-A2 language classification or ELP Level 1-2 must receive **Intensive Reading** through programs listed in the **K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan**. Clustering students is strongly recommended.

Middle Schools with 22 or more ELLs classified as A1-A2 or ELP Level 1-2, must provide **sheltered instruction** in the **Content Area** using identified curriculum and materials.

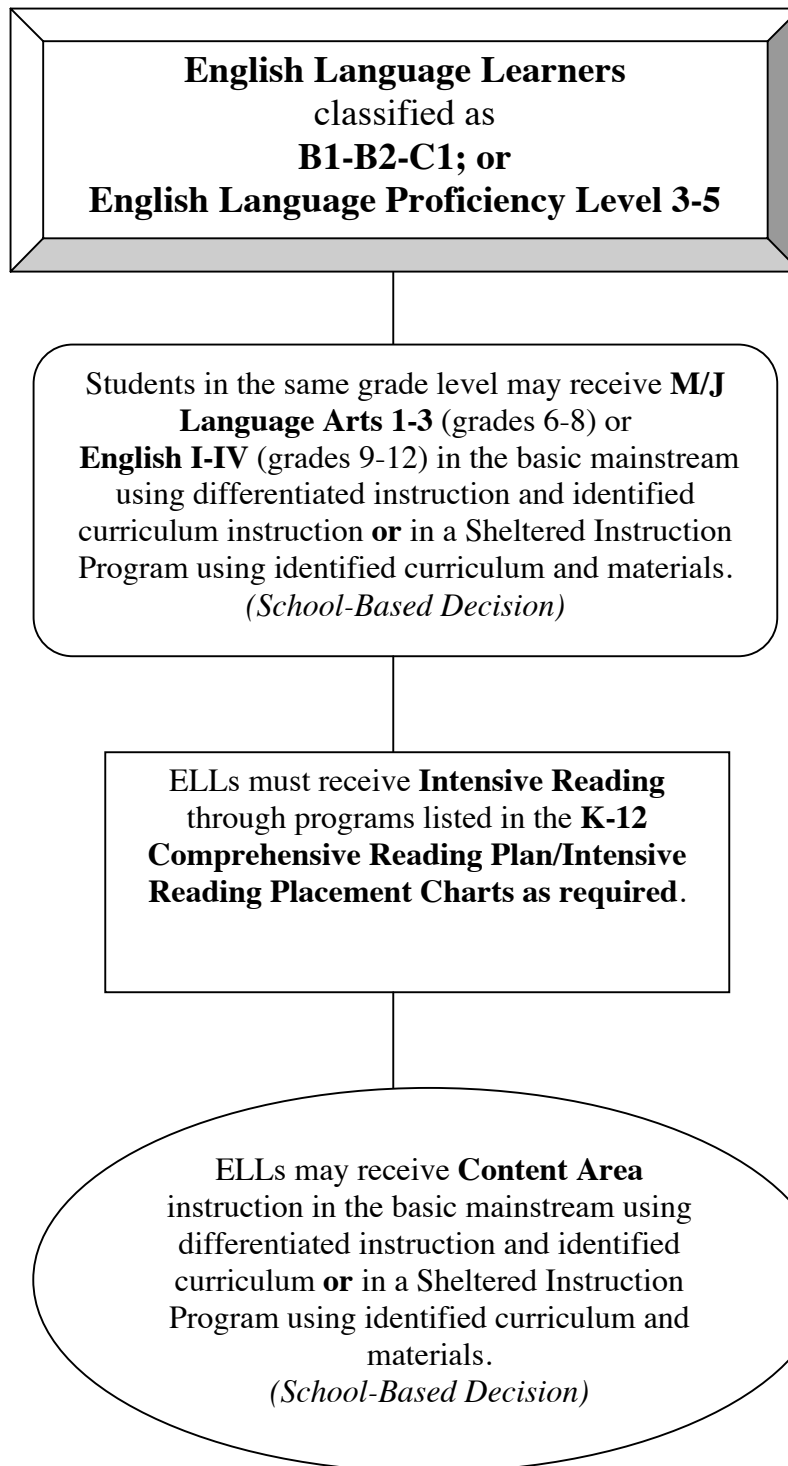
Middle Schools with fewer than 22 ELLs classified as A1-A2 or ELP Level 1-2, must provide **basic mainstream instruction** in the **Content Area** using differentiated instruction and identified curriculum. Clustering students is strongly recommended.

Per META Consent Decree, schools with at least 15 students speaking the same native language shall provide at least one aide or teacher proficient, in the same language, and trained to assist in ESOL basic subject area instruction.

## High School ESOL Program *Chart C*



## Middle & High School ESOL Program *Chart D*



Per META Consent Decree, schools with at least 15 students speaking the same native language shall provide at least one aide or teacher proficient, in the same language, and trained to assist in ESOL basic subject area instruction.

## References

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World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) available online at [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us)