

Section 8: Parent, Guardian, Student Notification and Rights

Describe the procedures used by school personnel to provide assistance to parents or guardians of ELLs in their home language.

From the time of students' registration every effort is made to inform parents about Broward County Public Schools through the use of translated materials or the use of interpreters. Bilingual social workers, ESOL Instructional Facilitators, Bilingual school psychologists and district-trained staff provide services to parents in their heritage language when feasible. Schools also request the assistance of interpreters and translators from the Bilingual/ESOL Department. Interpreters assist at parent conferences, ESE staffings, ELL Committee meetings and other pertinent meetings where heritage language assistance might be needed. Forms and documents are sent home in English and the District's three major languages: Spanish, Haitian-Creole and Portuguese.

Describe parent outreach activities that inform parents of how they can be involved in their children's education and how they can assist their children to learn English and meet state academic standards.

The Bilingual/ESOL Department has a Bilingual Parent Outreach Office consisting of a Parent Outreach Specialist and three Community Liaisons who speak the District's top languages. The office is dedicated to increasing involvement of ELL parents. Through increased knowledge of the educational system, parents are provided opportunities to make well-informed academic decisions for their children and for the advancement of all ELLs in the District. The staff works with families of ELLs via phone calls, emails, meetings, and attending ELL committee meetings when necessary. The department has worked collaboratively with key schools in the district to establish Parent Outreach Centers. The centers and the department will provide free supplemental books and resources to assist in the academic advancement of their students and families, including summer enrichment materials.

All activities and materials, such as notices, brochures, and information, are disseminated by Parent Link phone calls, emails, notices, and Internet. Meetings have concurrent translations through the use of translation technology. The parent website, www.browarddesolparents.com, can now be translated into over 50 languages through a translation tool and contains brochures, strategies, and links to enhance English language proficiency and academic achievement of ELLs.

The information about the ESOL Parent website is communicated through, but not limited to, phone links, emails and flyers as well as through school contacts. CDs with the District Parent Guide and the Code of Conduct and other academic information in all four languages are distributed at all parent meetings. The website is continuously being expanded and updated including current information and resources about the Florida State Standards.

The department hosts events in which the information presented is above and beyond what is required and is specific only to ELLs.

Check the school-to-home communications that are sent by the LEA or school to parents or guardians of ELLs that are in a language the parents or guardians can understand. (Check all that apply. Please provide links to all boxes checked.):

Forms are available in different locations such as www.browardschools.com;
<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/ets/css/ret/recordsret/forms.html>;
www.ellevationeducation.com; www.wida.us

- Delay in language proficiency testing
- Results of language proficiency assessment
- Program placement
- Program delivery model option(s)

- Extension of ESOL instruction
- Exit from ESOL program
- Post-reclassification of former ELLs monitoring
- Reclassification of former ELLs

- State and/or LEA testing
- Accommodations for testing (flexible setting)
- Annual testing for language development
- Growth in language proficiency (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing)
- Exemption from FSA in ELA for ELLs with DEUSS less than one year
- Retention/Remediation/Good Cause
- Transition to regular classes or course change

- Invitation to participate in an ELL Committee Meeting
- Invitation to participate in the Parent Leadership Council (PLC)
- Special programs such as Gifted, ESE, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, Pre-K, Career and Technical Education, charter schools, and student support activities
- Free/reduced price lunch
- Parental choice options, school improvement status, and teacher out-of-field notices
- Registration forms and requirements
- Disciplinary forms
- Information about the Florida Standards and the English Language Development (ELD) Standards
- Information about community services available to parents
- Information about opportunities for parental involvement (volunteering, PTA/PTO, SAC)
- Report Cards*
- Other (Specify) _____

*If report cards are not available in other languages, please describe how the academic progress of an ELL is communicated to parents/guardians.