

Dracut Public Schools
School Year 2019-2020
Parental Notification Regarding English Language Education

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

In order to comply with state requirements, school districts must inform parents of students whose home language is other than English of the rights they may have regarding English language education (ELE). The district will test your child in English reading, writing, speaking and listening to determine if your child is an English learner. If your child is found to be an English learner and eligible for placement in an ELE program, you will receive further notification with your child's English proficiency test results and program placement information.

If your child is determined to be an English learner, you have the right to:

- choose an ELE program among those offered by the district as described in state law and regulations;
- visit an ELE program in the district;
- attend available conferences or meetings to learn more about the ELE programs offered in the district;
- request a new ELE program in accordance with state law; and
- withdraw your child from an ELE program.

Available ELE programs include (check all that apply):

- Sheltered English Immersion (SEI)** – an ELE program in which sheltered grade-level content instruction is used. Sheltered content instruction is content instruction that is modified so that an English learner can comprehend it and participate in the class at his or her level of English proficiency. All instruction and materials are in English.
- Dual Language Education or Two-Way Immersion (TWI)** – an ELE program that develops students' language skills in two languages (English and another language). This program includes native English speaking students and students who are native speakers of another language.
- Transitional Bilingual (TBE)** – an ELE program in which the English learner's native language is used to support the student's development of English and content learning, and is then gradually phased out of instruction as the student's English proficiency increases.
- Other Bilingual** – other bilingual instructional program for English learners (not Two-Way Immersion or Transitional Bilingual Education).

All ELE programs include **English as a Second Language (ESL)** instruction. ESL classes provide direct English language instruction that focuses on developing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in English.

Districts serving 100 or more English learners or in which English learners comprise at least 5% of the student population, whichever is less, are required to establish an English learner parent advisory council (ELPAC). Similarly, any school designated as underperforming or chronically underperforming and operating an ELE program is required to establish an ELPAC. Parents of English learners are encouraged to participate in such councils.

For more information about the topics discussed in this notice, please contact the district's ESL Chair / Margaret Biedron at 978-957-1500 ext. 1127 or mbiedron@dracutps.org