
English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Policy 3.207

The Background:

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Policy is designed to set minimum standards for Tennessee school districts in providing services to non-English language background students who are also limited English proficient. These students are referred to as English learners (ELs).

This first read item presents the following changes to the ESL Program Policy:

- **Page 2:** Clarifies the home language survey is to be administered to students upon initial enrollment in the district.
- **Page 2:** Updates the ESL entrance criteria for students in grades 1-12.
- **Page 3:** Incorporates the WIDA English language development standards to which all ESL services must be aligned.
- **Page 5:** Clarifies the exit criteria for English learners who score 4.2 or higher composite and 4.0 higher for literacy on the WIDA ACCESS.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.