

Mastery Charter Schools Program for English Language Learners

Identifying ELL Students

To ensure Mastery is meeting the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs), the parents of all incoming students complete a comprehensive Home Language Survey (HLS) during the registration process. Mastery also reviews files from previous schools to determine if students are currently identified as ELLs.

Students answering any question on the HLS with a response other than English but are not identified as ELL from previous schools have their records reviewed for the following information to determine individual need. In order to be exempt from the English language proficiency assessment, students must meet two of the below criteria in addition to receiving approval from a teacher familiar with the student's academic performance.

- Final grades of a B or better in the core subject areas;
- Scores on district-wide assessments that are comparable to the Basic performance level on the PSSA ;
- Scores of Basic in Reading, Writing, and Math on the PSSA

Mastery evaluates any students for whom there is a concern regarding their mastery of the English language to determine appropriate supports that may be necessary for their success. Students take an informal language screening test and then, if necessary, a formal English language proficiency assessment to determine if ELL supports are needed and at what level of support.

Mastery files records including HLS, test scores, and annual progress in students' folders in the school office. Students who are exited from ELL are monitored for two years to assure their continued success.

ELL Program Summary

Mastery offers an English as a Second Language (ESL) program. In our ESL program we offer Specially Designed Academic Instruction delivered In English (SDAIE). The SDAIE Program offers:

- standards-based English instruction at the appropriate proficiency level
- content area instruction aligned with corresponding standards and adapted to meet needs of the students
- assessment processes that reflect the standards and instruction

Instruction in ESL includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing at different levels of proficiency: beginning, intermediate, and advanced. The type and amount of standards-based ESL instruction provided to students depends upon their level of language development and proficiency as determined by an appropriate English language proficiency instrument. However, guidelines for amounts of daily ESL instructional time are:

- for non-English-speaking students—2 to 3 hours
- beginner—2 hours
- intermediate—1 to 1½ hours
- advanced—1 hour.

ESL staff hold an Instructional I or II Certificate and have appropriate training to teach ESL classes. Content teachers are provided with appropriate training in modifying instruction for ELLs.

Grading of ELLs

ELLs are graded using the same grading system as all other students. A student may not be retained in a grade based solely on his/her ESL language proficiency.

ELLs with Disabilities

ELLs may be eligible for the full range of Special Education services as appropriate.

Annual Assessment of ELLs

Mastery assessment processes for ELLs comply with all state and federal laws. ELLs take the W-APT annually and take the PSSA with allowable accommodations.

Exit Criteria

In order to be exited from the ESL program, students must

1. Meet either of these test criteria
 - a. Score Basic on the PSSA and 5.0 in each domain on the W-APT test
 - b. Score Proficient on the PSSA Reading test and a composite of 4.5 or above on the January ACCESS test.
2. Have final grades of 76 or better in core subjects (Math, English, Science and Social Studies.)

Students are monitored for two years after exiting ESL using a review of grades, benchmark tests, PSSA's, and teacher observations. Records of these reviews are kept in the student's file.

Parent Involvement

Parents of ESL students are afforded the opportunity to meet with the school staff, with the assistance of an interpreter, in order to understand Mastery's program and to offer their input. All information disseminated to the students and their parents is provided in the language or mode preferred by the parents. The ESL program is evaluated annually to ascertain that it is meeting its goals for the students. ESL students and their parents are guaranteed full access to all Mastery programs and services.