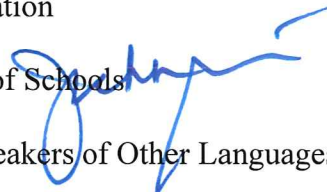


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Identification of English for Speakers of Other Languages Students
(SPC-02-05-19-05)

Question

Ms. Silvestre requested a written explanation of how ESOL students are being identified.

Response

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to ask the parents/guardians of every student upon enrollment if a language other than English is spoken using a Home Language Survey (HLS) to identify potential English Learners (ELs). An EL is a student who may have been born outside of the United States and:

- Who communicates in a language other than English; or
- Whose family uses a primary language other than English in the home; and
- Whose English language proficiency falls within the range established by the state for an English language development program.

Home Language Survey

It should be noted that a language other than English that is spoken in the home or used routinely in other settings is not an automatic identification of a student as EL. The Code of Maryland Regulations provides HLS criteria and defines them for EL identification ([COMAR 13A.05.07.02, Definitions](#) and [COMAR 13A.05.07.03, Programs for English Learners](#)).

A student's eligibility for services is based on the English Language Proficiency placement test. Each LEA must inform parents/guardians of an EL identified for participation in the LEA's English language development program using the following guidelines:

- No later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year for students who enter at the start of the school year; and
- Within the first two weeks of a student being placed in such a program if the student was not identified as an EL prior to the beginning of the school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Betty J. Collins, acting associate superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, at 240-740-3970 or Mrs. Niki T. Hazel, director, Department of Elementary Curriculum and Districtwide Programs, at 240-740-3930.

JRS:MVN:BJC:smw

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mrs. Hazel

Ms. Webb