

What is an Alternative Program under current law?

The Alternative (Bilingual) Program provides English Learners with instruction that allows them to study academic subjects in their primary language while learning English. Current law allows placement of English Learners in an Alternative Program.

This program includes primary language instruction in core subjects, English Language Development, and SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English). As students acquire English proficiency and become academically ready, students proceed into the English Learner Mainstream Program as per District transition criteria.



How Do I request an Alternative Program?

Parents/Guardians may choose to have their students participate in an alternative program by requesting the program of their choice at their home school. For bilingual programs, parents/guardians will be referred to the closest school where this is offered, if the program is not available at the home school. Dual Language Immersion programs are available at selected schools and are accessed

through a lottery process. An application must be submitted through the FUSD Transfers Office for any Dual Language Immersion Program.

Which children might best be served by the Alternative Program?

The Alternative Program best serves:

- a) English Learners with less than reasonable fluency in English.
- b) English Learners who have acquired reasonable fluency in English, and for whom it is the informed belief of the school principal and the educational staff that an alternative program will be beneficial academically and in the acquisition of language.

Will parents be informed about their child's placement?

Parents will be informed about their child's instructional program placement by their school. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's school to obtain further information about instructional program choices available.



FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of English Learner Services
www.fresnounified.org
2348 Mariposa, Fresno, California 93721
(559) 457-3928



INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Introduction

Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) is actively committed to ensuring that all students have equal access to quality educational programs. The Board of Education's formal adoption of the *Master Plan for English Learners* supports the District's commitment to academic excellence for all learners.



July 2018

Background

According to current law, once English Learners have acquired a good working knowledge of English, they will be transferred to an English Learner (EL) Mainstream Program. This brochure was prepared to explain current law, revisions to educational programs, and placement procedures in Fresno Unified School District schools.

Current LAW

CA Ed. Code Section 300 provides specific parameters that apply to all English language acquisition programs in the District. FUSD uses a number of program models to serve Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, referred to as English Learners. Parental involvement in decisions regarding the education of their children is required and critical for academic success.



Current law allows English Learners be taught in either a Standards-Based Content and Language Model (previously known as SEI) or in an English Learner Mainstream Program based on their English proficiency level, unless a parent requests an Alternate Program.

Upon parental request, a child may enroll in an Alternative (Bilingual/Dual Immersion) Program.

What is a Standards-Based Content and Language Model?

Instruction in the Standards-Based Content and Language Model emphasizes English language acquisition while students engage in development of core academic knowledge. Language Arts and content-area instruction are taught in English using specific research-informed instructional strategies.

How long must an English Learner remain in a Standards-Based Content and Language Model?

An English Learner must remain in a Standards-Based Content and Language Model until he/she has acquired a reasonable level of English proficiency as measured by District benchmark assessments, and/or the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). When the English Learner has acquired reasonable fluency in English, he/she will be transferred to an EL Mainstream Program.

What is the English Learner Mainstream Program?

The EL Mainstream Program is designed for English Learners who have already acquired reasonable fluency in English. This program provides all academic instruction in English. It includes Standards-based English Language Development and SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English).

Are Bilingual Programs allowed under current law?

CA Ed. Code Section 300 allows placement of an English Learner in an Alternative (Bilingual) Program. At school, parents will be provided a full description of alternative programs and materials used in those programs.

Each school, in which 20 or more students of the same language of a given grade level, is under the obligation to provide a Bilingual Program. If the school does not have a Bilingual Program, the school must allow students to move to another school where a Bilingual Program is offered.



For more information on Instructional Programs and Alternative Program options, please visit the English Learner Services web site at:

www.fresnou.org/dept/els