

## English Learner Programs FAQ

### How long will it take for my child to learn English?

For students who begin with no English skills, it can take between 5 and 7 years for them to become proficient in English language and academic skills. This varies depending on students' academic preparation in their home language, each child's personality, and learning opportunities at school.

### How will I know my child is learning?

Stay in close contact with your child's teachers, review schoolwork, homework, and report cards. Students participate in a variety of assessments. Parents will receive results of the assessments below as another way to stay informed:

- ELPAC for English language development
- State and/or local assessments

### How will I know my child is ready to learn without the English Learner program support?

When he/she is fluent in English, is doing well on the state assessments in language arts and is successful in academic subjects, you will be contacted to discuss reclassification to Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) status.

### What opportunities are there for me to get involved in the English Learner Program?

Schools with 21 or more English Learners have an English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). Attend the meetings as they are announced or let your teacher or principal know you'd like to participate. The ELAC selects representatives to participate in the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) which advises the PVSD Board of Education on programs for English Learners. In addition, each school's School Site Council (SSC) considers the needs of all students in planning school programs.

## PVSD English Learner Reclassification Criteria

### 1. Assessment of Language Proficiency

ELPAC Overall

- Score of level 4 Bridging

### 2. Academic Assessment (meets one or more)

CAASPP ELA

- Score of level 3 Standard Met or level 4 Standard Exceeded

FastBridge aReading 70% or higher

### 3. Teacher Evaluation

Teacher confirms that student's classroom performance does not indicate English Learner (EL) gaps in reading comprehension or writing.

*(Incurred deficits in motivation and academic success, unrelated to English language proficiency, do not preclude a student from reclassification.)*

### 4. Parent Opinion and Consultation

Parent or guardian receives written notification of reclassification with the option to request a follow-up conference with the teacher, principal, or a PVSD Educational Services Department representative.

### Exception to Reclassification Criteria

In a case where a student has not met the reclassification criteria, a staff member may appeal this action by presenting evidence of student proficiency.

PVSD Educational Services Department staff will review the appeal and determine if the student qualifies for reclassification under this exception.

Reclassification for ELs with Individual Educational Programs (IEP) is based on students meeting EL development goals outlined in their IEPs.

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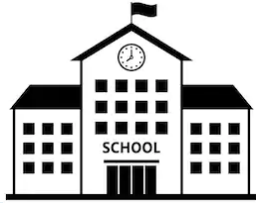
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# Pleasant Valley School District

## Educational Opportunities for English Learners



*PVSD prepares 21st century learners who are responsible members of our global society.*



## Welcome to Pleasant Valley School District

**Our goal is to provide your child with the best educational opportunities.** If your child is newly enrolled in a California public school and has a language other than English indicated on the home language survey, your child's language skills in English will be assessed within the first 30 days of enrollment. We will inform you of the results along with a brief description of the educational program he/she is enrolled in. School staff will be available to discuss this information with you if you wish.

**Initial language assessments** may tell us that your child speaks and understands English only, is fluent in English, or is an English Learner in the process of acquiring English language skills in addition to the home language.

**English Learners (EL) have additional educational opportunities available** to help them learn English and be successful in all academic areas. It is important that families understand these programs to make the best choices for their children. Ongoing **English language development assessments** measure student progress throughout the year and guide decisions about how to best support students' acquisition of English. This brochure explains the educational opportunities offered in PVSD for English Learner students and their families.

## Instructional Program Options for English Learners

Instructional programs for English learners are designed to promote acquisition of high levels of English language proficiency, as well as to provide access to the core curriculum (language arts, math, science, and history/social science).

If a student is not reasonably fluent in English according to the Initial and Summative ELPAC established criteria, the student's instructional setting will be Structured English Immersion (SEI) and placement will be Designated and Integrated English Language Development (ELD). When available, the student's primary language can be used to support the child's learning. Support services in the SEI program must include Designated and Integrated ELD instruction.

In grades TK-5, English learners participate in an SEI classroom setting and are clustered by similar proficiency levels. Structured English Immersion is designed to support the language acquisition needs of English learners. Appropriately certified teachers utilize research-based instructional strategies and resources from board-approved instructional materials to provide direct instruction in both Integrated and Designated ELD. Throughout the instructional day, the classroom teacher provides Integrated ELD in all content areas. Teachers use the California Content Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) in tandem with the California English Language Development (ELD) Standards to provide instruction and support for English language development. Differentiated instruction is provided to meet students' diverse language needs as identified by local and state measures. All English learners also receive Designated ELD instruction at their identified proficiency level.

In grades 6-8, English learners participate in an SEI program. Classroom teachers, throughout the instructional day, provide Integrated ELD across all content areas. At the middle school level, Integrated ELD may include developing academic language to accelerate English language and achievement in core content areas. Designated ELD taught by appropriately certified teachers may include direct instruction in English language (i.e. how English works) as taught through core ELA content, or it may be taught during a protected time of the school

## Instructional Program Options for English Learners (continued)

day and as a period of English language development.

Every year, your child will be tested and recommended for placement in the program that best meets his/her needs. You will receive notification of the recommendation. If you wish to enroll your child in an alternative program, please contact the school your child attends.

A parent/guardian of an English learner has the option to decline the enrollment of their student in the PVSD English Learner Program. English learners who are not enrolled in the program will receive appropriate instruction in English language development **AND** will still be required to take the ELPAC annually until they are reclassified, fluent-English proficient.

Parents/Guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. Schools in which the parents or legal guardians of 30 pupils or more per school or the parents or legal guardians of 20 pupils or more in any grade request a language acquisition program that is designed to provide language instruction shall be required to offer such a program to the extent possible.

### CORE CONTENT INSTRUCTION

Instructional programs for English learners are designed to promote acquisition of high levels of English language proficiency, as well as to provide access to the core curriculum. PVSD implements the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in tandem with the California ELD standards to support English learners as they develop proficiency in English.



Excellence for All.