

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Background

The Division supports the provision of educational programs for students who have recently arrived in Canada and Alberta resident students who require special assistance in learning English as a second language in order to follow classroom instruction in English.

Procedures

1. English as a Second Language (ESL) students are defined as those who have recently arrived in Canada and Alberta resident students whose proficiency in English is not commensurate with their age and/or abilities, as English is not their first language.
2. Each Principal will code ESL students on the Education Information System for transmitting to Alberta Education.
3. Each school will develop a program plan for ESL students which will:
 - 3.1 Encourage rapid integration of the student(s) into the school and community environment; and
 - 3.2 Give attention to the linguistic, cultural and academic needs of the students.
4. ESL programs may be developed for students who do not speak English when entering Division schools even though they do not qualify under the Alberta Education definition of ESL (for grant purposes).
5. ESL programs will be provided in accordance with the Alberta Education's Program of Studies and appropriate ESL curricular documents.

Reference: Section 8, 9, School Act
Policy 1.5.1 English as a Second Language