

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Initial Notification of Enrollment in the Elementary Structured English Immersion Program

_____ School

Student name: _____ Birth date: _____ Grade: _____

Your responses to the Home Language Survey indicate that your child may communicate in a language other than English. Based on our initial review, your child may be considered an English learner. As required by law, your child's language skills will be assessed in English and the home language. Meanwhile, your child will be placed in the Structured English Immersion Program for a minimum of 30 calendar days, as required by law.

Please read the parent brochure and view the videotape, "Instructional Programs for English Learners" to learn about programs for your child. You may be pleased with the Structured English Immersion Program and decide you want your child to continue. If you are not pleased or have concerns about your child's progress, you have the right to request a different program. If you do not request a change of program, your child will remain in the Structured English Immersion Program.

Structured English Immersion Program: This program provides a language acquisition process for English learners in which nearly all classroom instruction is in English. The curriculum and instruction are designed for students who are learning English. Students receive English language development (ELD) to help them acquire English, and teachers use special methods in English to help students meet grade-level standards in language arts, math, science, social studies, and other subjects. Student access to grade-level standards may be delayed while the student is learning English.

Alternative Bilingual Programs: Students in bilingual programs receive daily lessons in English language development (ELD) to help them acquire English, and bilingual teachers use the students' home language to help them meet grade-level standards in language arts, math, science, and social studies. As students become more proficient in English, the teacher increases instruction in English. While your child will be initially placed in the Structured English Immersion Program, you have the right to request a parental exception waiver in order to select an alternative bilingual program described on the back of this letter, in the parent brochure, and on the videotape. If you decide your child would learn better in a bilingual program fill out a "Parental Exception Waiver" form and bring it to school office personally.

Mainstream Program: While your child will be initially placed in the Structured English Immersion Program, you have the right to request placement for your child in the mainstream program designed for native-English and fluent-English speakers. For this placement, make an appointment with your school principal.

We invite you to visit our school and to participate in the English Learner Advisory Committee.

Administrator: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY. THEN SIGN AND RETURN THE ENTIRE LETTER TO SCHOOL:

- I understand the Structured English Immersion Program. I understand that my child will remain in this program after the first 30 days unless I request a different program.
- I understand I have the right to apply for a parental exception waiver for an alternative bilingual program. I understand that the school must provide me with a "Parental Exception Waiver" form.
- At this time, I request a "Parental Exception Waiver" form.
- I have read the information above and would like to schedule a parent conference to discuss my child's test results, program placement, or other program choices.

Parent signature

(_____) _____
Telephone Number

Date

Alternative Elementary Bilingual Programs for English Learners
With English Language Development Levels 1 through 4

The law requires that English learners be taught in Structured English Immersion for a period of not less than thirty (30) calendar days before a change in program can occur. Although your child will be placed initially in the Structured English Immersion Program, you have the right to use a parental exception waiver to request a bilingual program if you believe it would be better for your child. You may select one of the following bilingual programs to meet your child's language and academic needs.

Basic Bilingual Programs: Bilingual teachers in the Basic Program use your child's home language to teach language arts, math, science and social studies while your child learns English. All students receive instruction in English language development (ELD) daily to help them acquire English. As students gain proficiency in English, the bilingual teacher gradually increases instruction in English and decreases instruction in the home language. Instructional materials written in English and the home language are used. The program offers the following.

- A sequential program of English language development (ELD) taught daily in English
- Grade-level language arts, math, science, and social science taught daily:
 - first in your home language,
 - then, using special methods in English with home language support,
 - and then, when your child is ready, using mainstream English
- Art, music, and physical education taught daily in English

Dual Language Program: The Dual Language Program is offered in a limited number of schools. Bilingual teachers use two languages, English and the home language, to teach all subjects. Instruction and materials are provided in two languages beginning in kindergarten and continuing through the grades. To find out if your child's school offers a Dual-Language Program, ask the school staff.

Program availability will depend upon the number of students requesting and receiving waivers. When parents of 20 students at a given grade level request a waiver, the school must form a class. When parents of fewer than 20 students at a given grade level request a waiver, a multiple-grade class may be formed, or parents may seek another school with the requested program. Your school principal will advise you of program availability, and your need to provide transportation.

According to law, waivers must be requested in person annually. Waivers shall be granted unless the school principal and educational staff have determined that an alternative program offered at the school would not be better suited for the overall educational development of your child.

All parental exception waivers shall be acted upon by the school within twenty (20) instructional days of submission to the school principal. However, parental waiver requests shall no be acted upon during the thirty (30)-day placement in an English language classroom. These waivers must be acted upon either no later than ten (10) calendar days after the expiration of that thirty (30)-day English language classroom placement or within twenty (20) instructional days of submission of the parental waiver to the school principal, whichever is later.

In cases where a parental exception waiver is denied, the parents and guardians must be informed in writing of the reasons(s) for denial and advised that they may appeal the decision using the District's appeal process.

At any time, including during the school year, a parent or guardian may have his or her child moved into a mainstream English Program.