

English As a Second Language (ESL) & English Literacy Development (ELD) Programs and Services

Adopted:

September 15, 2015

Last Reviewed/Revised:

May 20, 2025

Next Scheduled Review: 2027-2028

Associated Policies & Procedures:

[**VI-77** Procedure for ESL Student Reception, Orientation, Placement, and Programming](#)

Purpose

To support English Language Learners (ELLs) in elementary and secondary schools in the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB).

Application and Scope

This policy applies to students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools in the HCDSB.

References

[Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2007](#)

[English Language Learners ESL and ELD Programs and Services Policies and Procedures for Ontario
Many Roots, Many Voices: Supporting English Language Learners in Every Classroom. A Practical
Guide for Ontario Educators \(2005\)](#)

[The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1–8: English as a Second Language and English Literacy
Development – A Resource Guide \(2001\)](#)

[The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9–12: English as a Second Language and English Literacy
Development \(2007\)](#)

Definitions

English Language Learners (ELLs): For the purposes of this policy, ELLs are students in the HCDSB whose first-learned language is a language other than English, or is a variety of English that is significantly different from standard Canadian English. These students may be Canadian born (Indigenous children, children of immigrants, etc.) or recently arrived from other countries (new

immigrants, refugees, international students, etc.). They come from diverse backgrounds and school experiences and have a wide variety of strengths and needs which may include gaps in education.

English as a Second Language Program (ESL): ESL programs are for students whose first-learned language is a language other than English or is a variety of English significantly different from that used for instruction in Ontario schools. Students in these programs have had educational opportunities to develop age-appropriate first-learned language literacy skills.

English Literacy Development Program (ELD): ELD programs are for students whose first-learned language is a language other than English or is a variety of English significantly different from that used for instruction in Ontario schools. Students in these programs are most often from countries in which their access to education has been limited and they have had limited opportunities to develop language and literacy skills in any language. Schooling in their countries of origin has been inconsistent, disrupted, or even completely unavailable throughout the years that these children would otherwise have been in school. As a result, they arrive in Ontario schools with significant gaps in their education.

Principles

HCDSB is committed to providing educational experiences to support every learner.

HCDSB is committed to promoting academic achievement and optimal outcomes for ELLs at the level expected of all learners in Ontario.

HCDSB is committed to meeting the needs of ELLs through English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Literacy Development (ELD) programming and services by:

- providing Ministry mandated policy for reception, orientation, placement, and programming for ELLs in order to accelerate their acquisition of English for academic purposes and to support the acculturation process;
- providing directions for initial and ongoing assessment of ELLs and for reporting to parents;
- clarifying policy around the identification of ELLs who are to participate in large-scale assessments;
- defining the roles and responsibilities of teachers and administrators;
- clarifying policy around the collection of data related to ELLs that will monitor and track their progress in order to support public accountability; and,
- providing direction to support increased credit accumulation, graduation rates, and postsecondary enrolment among ELLs.

Requirements

- Specific procedures will outline the support ELLs receive in relevant policy areas related to ESL and ELD as outlined by the Ministry of Education.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: _____
Chair of the Board