
English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Policy 3.207

The Background:

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Policy is designed to set minimum standards for Tennessee school districts in providing services to non-English language background students who are also limited English proficient. These students are referred to as English learners (ELs).

This item presents changes to the ESL Program Policy to clarify ESL service requirements and includes additional definitions.

Below is a brief summary of the changes since first reading:

- **Page 3:** Deletes reference to one-half year's growth in English language acquisition and in academics to clarify that students who score 3.6 or above on all domains shall receive services tailored to their needs.
- **Page 5:** Adds a requirement that all teachers providing instruction to EL students be trained on the WIDA English language proficiency standards.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.