

Athens Area Schools

English Language Learners (ELL) Implementation Plan

(This plan is to be implemented if we have a student who is an English Language Learner enrolled in the district.)

Rationale:

According to research, (Ovando, Carlos J., Combs, Mary Carol and Collier, Virginia P.; Bilingual and ESL Classrooms, 2006) there is a silent period for any new language learner consisting of several months. During this time, the student listens to the new language without being forced to produce the new language. If the student is able to make use of this silent period, the research demonstrates that at the end of a year of exposure to the new language, the student is able to make as much progress as other students. This silent period and the time following, should not merely be a time of input for the student. Interaction needs to occur, such as pauses, gestures, facial expressions, volume, repetitions, visual aids and comprehension checks.

There is a developmental sequence to learning another language.

1. Producing word order that is not standard.
2. Correct word order but with grammatical errors.
3. Using mostly correct grammatical structures.
4. More complex sentence structure.

The following steps will be followed when a ELL student enrolls at Athens Area Schools:

1. An assessment will be made of the student's English oral and possibly writing skills.
2. Based on this assessment, staff will meet and determine the needs of the student and the staff that have the ability to speak the student's native language. The staff who meet will be members of the ELL Committee.
3. If necessary, staff will be added who speak the student's native language.
4. The ELL Committee will ensure that necessary communication will be made in the student's native language until it no longer becomes necessary.
5. The ELL student will be placed in general education classroom(s) with English speaking students. This initiates the silent period.
6. The teacher or teachers and other school personnel will be provided with PD in order to understand how to best educate the student during this silent period and then afterwards.
7. The ELL Committee will continue to meet monthly to determine student progress and determine new strategies.