

Contents

1. [Program Description](#)
2. [Student Placement/Instructional Settings](#)
3. [Student Redesignation](#)
4. [Teacher Qualifications](#)
5. [Parental Involvement](#)
6. [English Language Development Standards](#)
7. [California English Language Development Test \(CELDT\)](#)
8. [State Reports](#)
9. [English Language Development Center](#)
10. [Further Information](#)

Program Description

Students are identified, assessed, placed, and redesignated according to state guidelines. When a student enters any school in the Hemet Unified School District, the parent or guardian completes a **Home Language Survey**. If the parent/guardian indicates that there is a language other than English on any of the first three questions of the Home Language Survey, the student is referred for language assessment. The school notifies the Language Assessment Center to set an appointment for the students to be assessed using the state ELD test.

The California State Department of Education has developed the California English Language Development Test for this purpose. The test provides results in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Five levels of achievement are determined:

- Level 1 – Beginning
- Level 2 – Early Intermediate
- Level 3 – Intermediate
- Level 4 – Early Advanced
- Level 5 – Advanced

The students must be assessed within 30 calendar days in English language skills. Students in kindergarten and first grade are assessed in listening and speaking. Students in grades 2-12 are assessed in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The Hemet Unified School District designates students scoring at Levels 1-3 as English Language Learners (ELL). All English Language Learners (ELL) are assessed annually in accordance to State requirements until fluent English Proficiency status has been achieved. Students who score at Level 4 and above in all areas are designated as Fluent English Proficient (FEP).

Students who are identified as English Language Learners (ELL) are assessed in their primary language within 90 calendar days of initial enrollment. Spanish speakers are assessed using the Language Assessment Scales (LAS), Spanish version. Students in grades 3-12 who score fluent in the Spanish oral exam are assessed in reading and writing in Spanish. To determine the fluency of speakers of languages other than Spanish, parents complete a questionnaire.

Student Placement/Instructional Settings

Students whose language results are in the fluent English proficient range are assigned to the mainstream program. In grades K-5, the services available to the students include English Language Development in all cases, and SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English) as needed by the student to be successful in this setting.

Students scoring at the English learner range are placed in the program setting selected by their parent/guardian as explained orally and in writing in the parent guide provided at the time of assessment. Their assessments indicate that they possess less than reasonable fluency in English and qualify for placement in the Structured English Immersion Program. At the kindergarten through fifth grade level, the program provides the opportunity for the acquisition of English in an educational setting in which all instruction is presented in English. As appropriate and when needed, academic support is provided in the student's primary language. Students are assigned to teachers who have received training in the implementation of English for primary language speakers.

At the secondary level, (grades 6-12), the same programs are offered. Students are placed in Structured English Immersion when their language proficiency is at the beginning, early intermediate or intermediate levels. The students receive ELD instruction at the appropriate level and support services as needed.

The Structured English Immersion (SEI) Program is offered at every site in the Hemet Unified School District.

Student Redesignation

English Learners are redesignated as Fluent English Proficient as soon as they meet district established criteria. The Fluent English Proficient students in Hemet Unified School District perform as well as their English-only peers on tests of academic achievement administered in English.

Teacher Qualifications

In order to provide the best educational program to English learners, Hemet Unified School District is committed to have authorized teachers deliver English language development, Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) in core subjects, and primary language support in Spanish. Support in other languages is provided when available.

Teachers of English learners at all levels must possess one of the following authorizations:

1. Bilingual Teaching or Bilingual Certificate of Competence (BCC)
2. Language Development Specialist (LDS) Certificate
3. Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) certificate
4. Bilingual Cross-cultural Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) certificate
5. SB 1969/395 certificate

Parental Involvement

The Hemet Unified School District believes that parental involvement is crucial to academic achievement, social, and emotional development. District and site staffs endeavor to provide an atmosphere of partnership and collaboration between parents and school. The District provides multiple opportunities at both the District and site levels for parents to be involved in their children's education. Some of these activities may include participation in Family Math Night, Family Reading Night, Parent Teacher Association meetings, English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meetings, District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) meetings, School Site Council (SSC) meetings, and other functions.

Each school site that enrolls 21 or more English Language Learners must have a functioning English Learner Advisory Committee. Parents are encouraged to attend these committee meetings in order to keep themselves abreast of the activities and functions within the site. In addition, a District Learner Advisory Committee meets at least four times a year to discuss issues related to English learners. Schedules for these meetings are posted at each site.

To ensure the academic success of English Learners, parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the educational system of the United States, California and the District. Knowledge of the Standards at each grade level, an understanding of student achievement and assessments, promotion, and retention criteria, High School Exit Exam, and standardized testing are critical elements for student success.

English Language Development Standards

The Hemet Unified School District follows the English Language Development Standards developed by the California State Department of Education and adopted by the State Board of Education in July, 1999. Exit standards for listening, speaking, reading, and writing have been established and are taught at all grade levels to English language learners. A more detailed description of the California English Language Development Standards may be found on the State Department of Education's website.

California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

In accordance to California mandates, Hemet Unified School District uses the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to identify English Language Learners and assess their proficiency. Over 2,000 students were assessed during the 2003-2004 as part of the annual assessment. At least 400 were new students who participated in the initial assessment process.

State Reports

Hemet Unified School District submits its Language Census (R-30) report to the California State Department of Education. Hemet Unified, like other Districts in the California, has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of English learners that it enrolls. Data submitted in March, 2004 indicated that Hemet enrolls a total of 2,577 English learners and 1,242 Fluent English Proficient students in its 22 schools. The students represent 30 different languages.

English Language Development Center

The English Language Development Center is located within the District Office Complex at 2350 West Latham Avenue. It consists of a coordinator, an administrative secretary, two language assessment aides, and two translators/interpreters. The Center provides on-going staff development for administrators, teachers, classified staff, and parents. It provides technical assistance to school sites in the areas of student placement, instructional planning, legal compliance, program monitoring, and English Learner Advisory committee activities. The staff works collaboratively with area administrators and other District-level personnel to ensure that English learners receive access to the core curriculum.

The Center serves as a clearinghouse for District-wide translations. Requests for translation services are generated and transmitted to the Center. Included in these requests may be attendance at Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings and the translation of documents generated at these meetings.

Students new to Hemet Unified School District are referred to the English Language Development Center for language assessment as evidenced on the Home Language Survey. Two language assessment aides administer the State mandated assessments to identified students. These assessments are used to determine language proficiency and the results of these assessments are transmitted to the sites; thus assisting site administrators in placing students in appropriate programs.

For further information contact:

Carlos Navarro, Coordinator
ELS, Educational Services
(951) 765-5100, extension 3800