

**Elmwood Park Community Unit  
School District 401  
ELL Program  
Information**

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# EPCUSD 401 – Overview

Elmwood Park is a diverse community located west of the city of Chicago. We have a student enrollment of close to 3,000 students. Approximately ten percent of our students qualify as English Language Learners, ELL's. Over fifteen languages are spoken by the families in our district. The two primary non-native English language backgrounds of our community are Polish and Spanish. Our schools offer two ELL service models, transitional bilingual education (TBE) and transitional programs of instruction (TPI).

# Home Language Survey

Upon enrollment into EPCUSD 401, parents are required to complete the Home Language Survey, as prescribed by the Illinois School Code. This survey asks two questions –

Does the student speak a language other than English?

Is a language other than English spoken in the home?

If the answer to either of these two questions is “yes,” the student is given an English language proficiency screener to determine eligibility for ELL services.

# English Language Proficiency Screener

There are specific language proficiency screeners for specific grade levels.

Preschoolers are administered the Pre-IPT

Kindergarteners and first semester 1st graders take the WIDA Model.

Second semester 1st graders through high schoolers take the W-APT screener.

If a child is determined to be an English Language Learner, ELL, based upon the screener results, parents are notified by letter and have the right to accept or refuse ELL services.

# TBE and TPI Programs for English Language Learners

**TBE Programs** – Transitional Bilingual Programs provide native language instruction in academic content areas, as well as English as a Second Language support services. These programs are available in schools which have 20 or more students of the same language background.

**TPI Programs** – Transitional Programs of Instruction provide English as a Second Language support, concentrating on oral language fluency, literacy, and building academic vocabulary in English.

# ELL Programs at EPCUSD 401 Schools

**Early Childhood Center** – Transitional Programs of Instruction, English as a Second Language push-in and pull-out as well as Kindergarten bilingual Spanish classes

**John Mills** – Transitional Bilingual Education in Spanish and Polish, as well as Transitional Programs of Instruction, ESL pull-out

**Elmwood** – Transitional Bilingual Education in Spanish, as well as Transitional Programs of Instruction, ESL pull-out

**Elm Middle School** - Transitional Programs of Instruction

**Elmwood Park High School** - Transitional Programs of Instruction

# ACCESS

- ACCESS for ELLs is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English Language Learners social and academic proficiency in English. This test assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies within the school context and across the four language domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- This test is a requirement under No Child Left Behind legislation, which mandates that all English Language Learners be assessed annually in English Language Proficiency.
- All students who have been found through the language proficiency screener to be English Language Learners, must take the ACCESS annually until they meet program exit requirements. This test is administered in January and February.

# Language Building Activities

- Reading Books in English and Native Languages
- Visiting Cultural Destinations...Libraries, Museums...
- Watching and discussing educational TV programs
- Talking about the day's experiences during the dinner hour
- Joining activities that will offer opportunities to talk with peers.
- Engaging in authentic experiences which stimulate thinking and sharing.
- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/>
- <http://www.amazingadventure.com/>

# Research and Resources

- ◉ Division of English Language Learning  
<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/bilingual>
- ◉ Illinois General Assembly, School Code Information  
<http://www.ilga.gov/>
- ◉ English Language Learning Access and Assessment  
<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/bilingual/htmls/access.htm>
- ◉ National Clearing House for English Language Acquisition  
[www.cnela.gwa.edu](http://www.cnela.gwa.edu)
- ◉ The Education Trust <http://www2.edtrust.org/edtrust>
- ◉ Illinois General Assembly, School Code Information  
<http://www.ilga.gov/>