



To: Parents, Teachers, and School Administrators
From: Dr. Michelle Madera, Coordinator of Bilingual & English Language Acquisition Programs
Re: Federal and state mandates regarding the instruction of English Language Learners
Date: August 26, 2011

In response to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's, Coordinate Program Review, the following provisions must be implemented in order to meet Federal and State requirements regarding the education of English Language Learners in the Cambridge Public School District.

English Language Learners Enrolled in the General Education Program:

The parent or guardian of an English Language Learner may "opt out" of a sheltered English Immersion program. However, federal law, (Title VI and the Civil Rights Act of 1964), requires that the school district continue to ensure that students have equal opportunity to have their English language and academic needs met. **Therefore, ELL students may not opt out of ESL Services.** The district will provide ESL Instruction to students who are limited English proficient and are enrolled in the general education program. The Bilingual Department will assign an ESL teacher, ESL tutor, or a general education teacher who has successfully completed the four Massachusetts Category Trainings, (SEI trainings), to provide direct instruction utilizing English as a second language teaching strategies to English language learners enrolled in the general education program.

Required hours of ESL instruction for English Language Learners:

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, mandates the following hourly ESL services/instruction to Limited English Proficient students in all schools in the district

- **Beginning and Early Intermediate** ELL Students must receive **2 ½ hours per day** of ESL instruction
- **Intermediate** ELL Students must receive **1 ½ hours per day** of ESL instruction
- ESL support for FLEP 1 & 2 students (as needed)

For more information regarding the English Language Learner education regulations and expectations please refer to the DESE website at http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/chapter71A_faq.pdf