

The Vision

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District will empower English Learners to maintain pride in their culture, acquire English language proficiency, achieve academic success, and become productive members of a global society.



For more information, contact:

Rayna Bird
Assistant Director
rayna.bird@matsuk12.us
907-746-9230

Shana Sommer
Coordinator
shana.sommer@matsuk12.us
907-352-8298

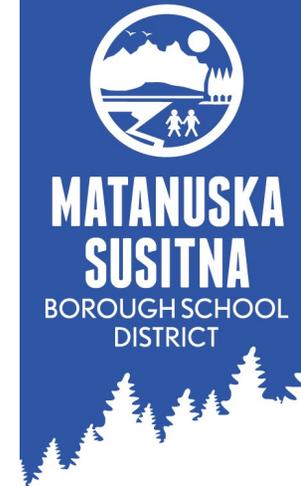
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Federal Programs

Andrea Everett, *Executive Director*

501 N. Gulkana Street
Palmer AK 99645

Phone: 907-746-9276
Fax: 907-746-9290



English Learner Program

An informational guide for
parents and teachers of children
who are English Learners



We prepare all students for success

What is the English Learner Program and how are EL students served?

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District's EL Program is designed to enhance language proficiency for success in the classroom. Services may include English language instruction, assistance with development of English language skills, or "sheltered" core curriculum courses.

What is the purpose of the EL Program?

- ◆ To develop student competency in English.
- ◆ To prepare students to be successful in all academic subjects.

Who can enter the EL Program?

Any student in grades K-12 who speaks or hears a language other than English in their home and has difficulty with English are eligible for screening

How does the EL program work ?

The primary focus of the EL program is to develop skills in four domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The program is tailored for each student according to his/her ability to learn and how much English he/she already knows. Instructional focus is on developing student vocabulary, both academic and conversational, frontloading or pre-teaching key concepts and vocabulary, and promoting proficiency in all areas of literacy.

Our EL program uses a Case Manager model. A case manager is a certified teacher with special training in English Language Development, who coordinates a plan designed for each EL student and works with classroom teachers to help provide the best possible instruction. This includes supporting and partnering with teachers to implement specific English language development strategies to enable students to move toward proficiency. Case Managers also provide parents with information and serve as an advocate for students.

How long will a student remain in the EL Program?

Students will remain in the EL program until they reach proficiency in English, as measured by the annual state mandated WIDA ACCESS test. Once a student passes with proficiency, they will then be monitored for two years to ensure they are demonstrating academic success.

How can parents stay informed?

Different meetings are organized by schools and the district office during the year. They give parents the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns or suggestion with EL case managers. These meeting also help parents understand school district rules and expectations for students.

Do parents have a choice?

Students who qualify for the EL program are NOT required to participate. Parents may meet with an EL case manager to refuse services. Students will still be required to take the annual access test.

What if my child is receiving Special Education Services?

If a student has a disability and is on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), improving her ability to speak and write in English will help to meet the objectives of the IEP.

Can my child participate in other school programs?

English learners have full access to all the programs and opportunities (in class and after school) for which they qualify.

