



NEBRASKA  
ENGLISH  
LEARNER  
PROGRAMS

# Nebraska EL Program



## GUIDE FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Updated 2020



**NEBRASKA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document. For comments regarding this document contact [nde.guidance@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.guidance@nebraska.gov).

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	3
Rule 15 English Learner Modules .....	4
EL Program Requirements .....	5
Identify Students as Potential English Learners (EL).....	5
Assess Student’s Need for EL Services .....	6
Develop a Program.....	7
Ensure Adequate and Effective Resources .....	8
Assess English Learners .....	8
Exit from the EL Status .....	9
Evaluate and Modify the Program .....	9
EL Program Models .....	10
EL Program Model Descriptions .....	12
The Stages of Second Language Acquisition .....	14
Stages of Culture Shock .....	15
Recommendations for Administrators .....	16
Resources .....	17
Program Administration/Legal Obligations.....	17
Instruction .....	18
Identification/Assessment .....	19
General EL Information.....	19
Specialized Resources/Miscellaneous .....	20
Teacher Resources .....	20

### **Nebraska ELLLI Design Team**

*A representation of members from the*

*Nebraska English Language Learners Leadership Institute*

Kris Schneider	Grand Island Public Schools
Penny Businga	Educational Service Unit 13
Rosemary Cervantes	Educational Service Unit 10
Dee Condon	Educational Service Unit 7
Susan Farkas	Elkhorn Public Schools
Michelle Knight	Plattsmouth Community Schools
Shari Koch	Omaha Public Schools
Wendy McCarty	University of Nebraska at Kearney
Julie Myers	Lexington Public Schools
Allyson Olson	South Sioux City Community Schools
Carol Renner	Kearney Public Schools
Nancy Rowch	Nebraska Department of Education
Amy Schultz	Educational Service Unit 9
Terri Schuster	Nebraska Department of Education
Cindy West	Lincoln Public Schools
<b>Additional support:</b>	
Krista Kjeldgaard	Nebraska Department of Education
Brooke David	Nebraska Department of Education

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to assist schools in developing programs for English Learners in order to meet State and Federal requirements. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Lau v. Nichols* affirmed that school districts must take steps to help EL students overcome language barriers and ensure that they can participate meaningfully in the districts' educational programs. In addition, under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), ELs must show increased academic achievement in content areas each year, while learning English. Schools in Nebraska are also subject to implementing the provisions of *Rule 15: Regulations and Procedures for the Education of Students with Limited English Proficiency in Public Schools*.

While many of Nebraska's English learners are concentrated in urban areas, many smaller, more rural communities are experiencing an influx of language-minority students. Schools in these locations are unlikely to have the large numbers of bilingual and ESL teachers and other resources enjoyed by schools in larger communities. This change in the number of English learners presents a new challenge to many Nebraska districts. This document attempts to serve as a resource for school administrators in both large and small districts.

Federal law requires programs that educate children with limited English proficiency to be:

- (1) based on a sound educational theory;
- (2) adequately supported, with adequate and effective staff and resources, so that the program has a realistic chance of success; and
- (3) periodically evaluated and, if necessary, revised.

OCR does not require or advocate a particular program of instruction for EL students and nothing in federal law requires one form of instruction over another. Therefore, this guide attempts to combine the three requirements of federal law and regulations in Nebraska State Rule into one resource guide aimed at helping administrators understand requirements and implement EL programs. The companion *Nebraska EL Program Guide for Teachers* provides additional information related to the instructional needs of ELs.

The purpose of *Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 15* is to enable each English learner to become proficient in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The rule requires schools to:

- Identify students in need of services
- Implement a language instruction educational program
- See that staff members are endorsed or have received professional development
- Ensure students participate in the state assessments with appropriate accommodations
- Exit students when they have attained English proficiency
- Conduct an annual program review

## Rule 15 English Learner Modules

To support districts in understanding their obligations under Rule 15, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) has created digital learning modules focused on Rule 15. Four learning modules are available and address welcoming and identifying English learners, program models, staffing the EL program, and program review. For each module, the first video segment explains a district's responsibility for serving English learners under Rule 15. The other segments explain other important information related to that topic.

The modules can be accessed through the NDE Digital Learning Center at:  
<https://moodle.education.ne.gov/login/index.php>

[Rule 15: Regulations and Procedures for English Learner Programs in Nebraska Public Schools](#) and [Rule 15: A Guide for Implementation](#) can be accessed from NDE's [Title III webpage](#).

## EL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The limitations of not knowing the language affect the EL student's ability to participate meaningfully in education programs and achieve high academic standards. It is the responsibility of schools to ensure that EL students have equal access to a quality education that enables them to progress academically while learning English. The exact services to be provided are not specified by federal or state law; however, legislation and policy updates provide broad outlines. The Office for Civil Rights, under the U.S. Department of Education, has created resource materials for schools to develop programs that meet the federal requirements.

*Programs for English Language Learners: Resource Materials for Planning and Self-Assessment (1999) can be downloaded at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/ell/index.html>*

The following are essential elements in a quality program.

### Identify Students as Potential English Learners (ELs)

Districts are required to identify students who have a home language other than English. All new students to a district should complete a Home Language Survey (HLS). A sample HLS with the three questions required by Rule 15 can be found in Appendix A of Rule 15 and is also available at [www.TransACT.com](http://www.TransACT.com). TransACT provides parent notifications and other documents in multiple languages and is provided to all Nebraska schools at no charge. To access the NE resources from TransACT, enter your school district email address and request a password. Anyone with a school district email can access this resource.

The three required questions are:

1. What language did your child first learn to speak?
2. What language is spoken most often by your child?
3. What language is primarily used in the student's home regardless of the language spoken by the student?

If any language *other* than English is indicated on the HLS, an English language assessment must be administered.

If possible, have an interpreter available to assist in the registration process.

## Assess Student's Need for EL Services

If a student indicates a language *other* than English on the HLS, an English language assessment must be administered to determine if the student is limited English proficient.

This assessment should measure the student's level of English proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The ELPA21 Screener is available at no cost to district for the purpose of screening incoming potential English learners.

The vendor for the ELPA21 Screener is Cambium Assessment. More information about this screener can be found at: <https://ne.portal.cambiumast.com/>

If the district does not have English language assessments, contact the local Educational Service Unit (ESU) or the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for information on obtaining assessment materials.

A student's grade level placement must be age appropriate. Students should not be placed in lower grades based on English proficiency.

Additional considerations:

- How much previous education does this student have in the United States and/or the home country?
- What are their language and literacy proficiency levels in English and in the first language?
- How much support is there at home for first language literacy and/or English development?
- Do prospective teachers understand the second language acquisition process and know what to expect at different levels of English proficiency? See *The Stages of Language Acquisition* for additional information.
- Do prospective teachers know how to use effective teaching strategies for ELs?
- What additional resources are available to meet the student's language and academic needs?

## Develop a Program

Under Title I and Title III of The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, districts are required to meet two goals for any English language learning program.

GOAL #1: English language development in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing

GOAL #2: Ability to participate meaningfully in the educational program (content areas)

Under Rule 15, districts are to implement a language instruction educational program that:

- is designed to provide a systematic approach to teaching the English language to English learners;
- is educationally sound in theory and effective in practice as recognized by experts in the field of language acquisition;
- is designed to help English learners increase English proficiency and meet academic standards; and
- is designed to allow for meaningful access to programs and activities that are available to all students including, if appropriate, special education.

There are several variables that influence a district's decision to develop a specific type of program for the instruction of English learners. These include:

### DEMOGRAPHICS-

Districts and schools may find themselves with many different types of students who are English learners. Some districts have a large, relatively stable population of EL students who share the same language and cultural background. Other districts may have to respond to a sharp upsurge in EL students from a particular language background, such as the students of Mexican, Russian, Somali, or Vietnamese heritage. Still other districts may have a small number of students from a great number of different language backgrounds.

### STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS-

The circumstances of individual students can also influence the choice of program. Some students will enter school with no understanding of English. Others will know enough English to be understood on the playground, but will face significant challenges with academic content language. A student's academic background and whether in primary or secondary school must also be considered. For example, some EL students enter US schools from countries where they have already learned to read and write in their first language, and where they have achieved a level of academic mastery that is on par with (or more advanced than) their US peers. Others come from impoverished or war-torn backgrounds in countries that offer little or no formal schooling.

### AVAILABLE RESOURCES-

The resources that schools have to work with and the ability to implement a particular program will vary a great deal from district to district. Nationwide there are shortages of certified bilingual, ESL, and foreign language teachers. Some districts have a large, stable community group with similar language backgrounds that make it easier to recruit qualified bilingual teachers and paraprofessionals. Still other districts will have difficulty finding native language speakers. See *EL Program Models* for descriptions of EL programs.

## Ensure Adequate and Effective Resources

### **FEDERAL: Title I of ESEA**

EL students can participate in Title I Targeted Assistance programs in the areas of Reading and Math. The district must have a process for identifying children as eligible for services that does not automatically exclude English learners. Districts are reminded that Title I is a supplemental service and the program is IN ADDITION TO the district's EL program.

### **FEDERAL: Title III of ESEA**

School districts must use Title III funds to provide effective language instruction programs that meet the needs of English learners, and that have demonstrated that they effectively increase English proficiency and student academic achievement. Districts are required to provide effective professional development to classroom teachers, principals, administrators, and other school or community-based organizational personnel in order to improve the instruction and assessment of English learners. Finally, districts are required to provide and implement other effective activities and strategies that include parent, family, and community engagement activities. Title III funds must be used to supplement the level of Federal, State, and local funds that, in the absence of Title III funds, would have been expended for programs for English learners [Section 3115(g) of ESEA].

## Assess English Learners

Both Rule 15 and Title III require English learners to participate in state language proficiency assessment. Currently, Nebraska uses the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (ELPA21) as the statewide summative English language proficiency assessment. The vendor for this assessment is Cambium Assessments. Information on this assessment can be found at: <https://ne.portal.cambiumast.com/>

In addition, English Learners are required to participate in the Nebraska English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and ACT assessments with approved accommodations. Please visit NDE's Assessment webpage for the latest guidance on Approved Accommodations for ELs.

## Exit Students from the EL Status

States must develop criteria to determine when EL services are no longer necessary, also called exit criteria. Schools must provide evidence that the student has mastered English and can participate meaningfully in the general education program and follow the statewide exit criteria set in Rule 15:

- Students in grades K-12 must receive a score of proficient on the annual state English proficiency assessment; or
- In special cases, English learners with verified disabilities may exit if a committee of educational and assessment personnel determine that the educational needs of the student are not affected by the student's degree of proficiency in English. The committee shall include at least one member of the student's IEP team and others knowledgeable of the language and educational needs of the student. Documentation must be maintained that the student's educational needs are not affected by their degree of proficiency in the English language. Please see *Rule 15: A Guide for Implementation* for more guidance.

After students have met the program's exit criteria, they must be monitored for academic success for four years. Students may be reassessed if unable to meaningfully participate in the educational program.

## Evaluate and Modify Program

OCR policy states that districts are required to modify their programs if they prove to be unsuccessful after a legitimate trial. Schools must meet the program goals of English language development and participation in the general educational program. Therefore, in order to comply with this requirement, it is necessary to periodically evaluate the program.

While federal law requires the EL program to be periodically evaluated, it does not prescribe a particular approach. Rule 15, however, does require that the review be conducted annually and a written report be kept on file with the superintendent. Required elements include:

- Examination of the practices, including the process for identifying English learners, the implementation of the language instruction educational programs, staffing, standards, assessment and accommodations, and the exit requirements.
- An analysis of English learner data including performance on the annual English language proficiency assessment and performance on the state content assessments. Other assessment data may be included.
- Monitoring the academic progress of former English learners for at least four years to compare their academic performance to non-EL students.
- Make modifications to the program, if necessary, based on the review of the implementation practices and data analysis to assist students in overcoming language barriers in order to participate meaningfully in the core curriculum.

A sample process to follow can be found in *Rule 15: A Guide for Implementation*.

NDE has developed a [Continuous Improvement Process Toolkit](#) as a way to integrate and connect existing school improvement activities with new resources and tools to better assure continuous school improvement. The Toolkit was developed to help build on areas of excellence and to improve areas of low performance, and is based on research about effective schools. It provides suggestions in the areas of data collection and analysis, goal setting, planning for improvement, and plan implementation.

## EL PROGRAM MODELS

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) does not require or advocate a particular program of instruction for EL students and nothing in federal law requires one form of instruction over another. Federal law does require programs that educate children with limited English proficiency to be:

- based on a sound educational theory;
- adequately supported, with adequate and effective staff and resources, so that the program has a realistic chance of success; and
- periodically evaluated and, if necessary, revised.

Under federal law, students must be provided services until they are proficient enough in English to participate meaningfully in the district's overall education program.

Rule 15 requires districts to implement language instruction educational programs that:

- Are designed to provide a systematic approach to teaching the English language to English learners;
- Are educationally sound in theory and effective in practice as recognized by experts in the field of language acquisition;
- Are designed to help English learners increase proficiency and meet academic standards; and
- Are designed to allow for meaningful access to programs and activities that are available to all students including, if appropriate, special education.

ELs can benefit in regular classrooms when teachers use EL friendly strategies for teaching content areas. These strategies increase comprehension, learning, and interaction through modeling, acting out, gesturing, showing diagrams, and doing hands-on activities and experiments. Math, science, art, music, and PE classes lend themselves to these types of activities. Certain subjects, such as language arts and social studies need special attention because they depend primarily on language.

It is important that the EL curriculum is aligned to the *Nebraska English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards*. The state required annual English language proficiency assessment—the ELPA21, is aligned to the standards. The standards can be found at:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/natlorigin/ell-resources/>

The research conducted by the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) on effective instructional strategies has been expanded in *Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners* (Hill and Flynn, 2006), to describe ways to use the best practice strategies with English Language Learners. A second edition was published in 2013. The Nebraska Department of Education partnered with McREL to create a study guide for both editions to support teachers in working with these strategies. These guides are available on [NDE's Title III webpage](#).

Schools in Nebraska use a variety of programs or combination of programs. Possibilities for instruction may include using the support of bilingual aides, an ESL teacher, a resource teacher, a content area teacher with ESL training, or a pull-out class. Schools with a low incidence of ELLs face additional challenges. Often financial and human resources are limited and staff members have not had experience working with diverse populations and ELLs. Some program considerations include:

### **Survey Current Curricular Resources**

- Locate books in digital formats that allow the students to listen as they follow along (especially with accompanying pictures). This gives students visual and auditory clues, which makes language more comprehensible.
- Districts often find computer-based language learning programs to be a good source of SUPPLEMENTAL language services. It is important to note that these programs may not constitute the EL program, but should complement it. .
- Work with Media Specialists, Speech Language Pathologists or Special Education teachers for high-interest reading materials that use controlled vocabulary to support classroom concepts.
- Leveled readers/guided reading books are often excellent resources for EL students in all grades. Vocabulary is essential for ELs' language development. Always think—vocabulary, vocabulary, vocabulary. This is important for EL students to make language and content comprehensible. Consider the academic language used in the classroom. Teach EL students what is expected. For example, explain what it means to “compare and contrast.”

### **Survey Staff Resources**

- Native language support – It is not always practical or possible to use native language supports. Consider bilingual dictionaries or electronic translators. If there are human resources available, determine the role of this staff member. For example, will the primary job be to translate key concepts or to provide homework assistance?
- Paraprofessionals – These staff members can provide essential preview/review and other supports for the English learner. Remember that they are NOT teachers and should not be working in that capacity. See Rule 15 Staffing for further guidance.
- Teachers – When there are only a few EL students in your district, it is often difficult to hire a full-time ESL endorsed teacher. Some districts have paid teachers additional dollars to help teach EL students during their planning periods. Other districts have been fortunate to hire retired teachers with expertise in language/literacy. Some schools have provided financial support for teachers to complete an ESL endorsement during the summer or online.

See Rule 15 for staffing requirements for EL programs.

### **Scheduling Classes**

- Age appropriate – Be sure to place EL students in classes where the students are of similar ages.
- There are some classes that are more difficult for EL students, especially at the middle and high school levels. Language Arts and Social Studies are more language- and culturally-based and may be more difficult for English learners.
- Texts may lack pictures that could help students gain meaning. In addition, students may not have prior knowledge on some subjects such as US History. This puts them at a disadvantage as they cannot rely on previous content knowledge.
- Granting credit – It is important to know the previous educational experiences of EL students. For students in secondary schools, use transcripts to grant credits for courses studied in other countries.
- Literacy in English – Even when students are literate in their first language, it is important to learn literacy skills in English. These students will already know the process of reading, but will need to develop the skills specific to reading and writing in English. For Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE), reading and writing instruction will be more intensive. The role of phonics may be limited, as the students need much more assistance with vocabulary development in order to comprehend what is being read.

### **Professional Development**

- There are many opportunities for all teachers to learn strategies to successfully work with EL students in the classroom, including several ESU Title III Consortia. Approach the ESU, NDE, or local colleges and universities for additional information.

## **EL Program Model Descriptions**

**English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes:** ESL is an educational approach in which English language learners are instructed in the use of the English language. Their instruction is based on a special curriculum that typically involves little or no use of the native language, focuses on language (as opposed to content) and is usually taught during specific school periods. For the rest of the school day, students may be placed in mainstream classrooms, an immersion program, or a bilingual education program.

- **Pull-out ESL Program:** A program in which English learners are pulled out of regular, mainstream classes for special instruction in English as a second language with an ESL teacher.
- **Push-In ESL Program:** A program in which students are served in mainstream classrooms and receive instruction in English with some native support as needed. The English language instruction is provided within the mainstream classroom. This model could make use of co-teaching or coaching. If mainstream teachers deliver instruction, they must receive annual professional development in ESL strategies to meet the language and academic needs of the students.

**Newcomer Program:** A program that addresses the specific needs of recent immigrant students, most often at the middle and high school level, especially those with limited or interrupted schooling in their home countries. Major goals of newcomer programs are to acquire beginning English language skills along with core academic skills and to acculturate to the U.S. school system. Some newcomer programs also include primary language development and an orientation to the student's new community.

**Sheltered Content Area Classes or Structured Immersion:** An instructional approach used to make academic instruction in English understandable to ELs in order to help them acquire proficiency in English while at the same time achieving in content areas. Sheltered English instruction teaches English language within the language of a content area. Content knowledge and skills are the goals. In sheltered classrooms, teachers use simplified/modified language, physical activities, visual aids, and the environment to teach vocabulary for concept development in mathematics, science, social studies and other subjects.

**Dual Language Program:** Also known as *two-way bilingual education* or *two-way immersion education*, these programs are designed to serve both language minority and language majority students concurrently. Two language groups are put together and instruction is delivered through both languages. For example, in the United States, native English-speakers might learn Spanish as a foreign language while continuing to develop their English literacy skills and Spanish-speaking ELs learn English while developing literacy in Spanish. The goals of the program are for both groups to become bi-literate, succeed academically, and develop cross-cultural understanding.

**Transitional Bilingual:** These programs are designed to provide instruction in both English and a native language. They are generally for English learners with the same native language. These programs sometimes transition to English-only sheltered instruction in 2 or 3 years. Often, however, bilingual support is provided during the transition to English instruction.

**Heritage Language Preservation:** The language a person regards as their native, home, and/or ancestral language. This covers indigenous languages (e.g. Navajo) and immigrant languages (e.g. Spanish in the United States). The focus of instruction may be community-oriented and focused on language preservation and maintenance, or it might be on heritage language development.

For additional information on ELL programs see, *Rule 15: A Guide for Implementation of the NDE English Learner Modules which includes a segment related to program models.*

## THE STAGES OF SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Stage	Characteristics	Approximate Time Frame*
<i>Preproduction</i>	<p>The student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has minimal comprehension without scaffolds</li> <li>• Does not verbalize</li> <li>• Nods <i>yes</i> and <i>no</i></li> <li>• Draws and points</li> </ul> <p>This stage is often called “the silent period”</p>	0-6 months
<i>Early Production</i>	<p>The student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has limited comprehension without support</li> <li>• Produces one- or two-word responses</li> <li>• Participates using key words and familiar phrases</li> <li>• Beginning to use grammar structures but with errors (i.e. present tense)</li> </ul>	6 months-1 year
<i>Speech Emergence</i>	<p>The student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has good comprehension and communication skills</li> <li>• Can produce simple sentences</li> <li>• Makes grammatical and pronunciation errors</li> <li>• Uses more common academic language and begins to use vocabulary in new contexts</li> <li>• Frequently misunderstands jokes</li> </ul>	1-3 years
<i>Intermediate Fluency</i>	<p>The student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has excellent comprehension and communication skills</li> <li>• Uses academic language but may have some gaps in vocabulary and unfamiliar expressions.</li> <li>• Able to demonstrate higher order thinking skills in the new language</li> <li>• Makes few grammatical errors</li> </ul>	3-5 years
<i>Advanced Fluency</i>	<p>The student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has near-native level of comprehension and communication skills</li> <li>• Can maneuver fluently in new academic contexts</li> </ul>	5-7 years

\*time-framed is approximate and based on students with literacy skills in the first language

This chart was adapted from *Colorín Colorado and Classroom Instruction that Works with English Learners* (2008).

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/language-acquisition-overview>

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/108052/chapters/The-Stages-of-Second-Language-Acquisition.aspx>

## **STAGES OF CULTURE SHOCK**

Culture shock is used to describe the changing emotions someone experiences when living in a new country. Recognizing culture shock is an important way for teachers and administrators to support EL students in their new countries.

Experts agree there are stages to culture shock and people experience each stage at differing intensities and for different lengths of time. Once people get beyond the initial and most difficult stages, life in the new country gets much better.

### **STAGE ONE - -Excitement**

---

The individual experiences a holiday or “honeymoon period” with the new surroundings. They feel very positive about the new culture, are overwhelmed with impressions, find the new culture exotic and fascinating, and are generally passive.

### **STAGE TWO - -Withdrawal**

---

The individual now has some more face to face experience of the culture and starts to find things different, strange, and frustrating. They find the behavior of others unusual and unpredictable, begin to dislike the new culture and react negatively, feel anxious, start to withdraw, and begin to criticize, mock, or show animosity to others.

### **STAGE THREE - -Adjustment**

---

The individual now has a routine, feels more settled, and is more confident in dealing with a new culture. They understand and accept the behavior of others, feel less isolated, and regain their sense of humor.

### **STAGE FOUR - -Enthusiasm**

---

The individual now feels comfortable in the new culture. They enjoy being in the culture, function well in the culture, prefer certain traits of the new culture over their own, and adopt certain behaviors from the new culture.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

### BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

---

- Get to know the students—Learn how to pronounce students' names correctly. Listen closely as they pronounce their names or ask others to help you if you find the name difficult. Model the correct pronunciation so others can also say the names correctly. Don't "Americanize" their names.
- Provide personalized assistance—Some EL newcomers may not answer voluntarily or ask for your help. Students may smile and nod, but this does not necessarily indicate understanding. Go to the student and offer individual assistance in a friendly way.

### ORIENT THE STUDENT TO THE SCHOOL

---

- School tour—If possible, have a bilingual paraprofessional, student or teacher take the student on a tour to locate the important people and places in the school. Some schools have made videos for newcomers and their families in their native languages. These can be checked out and viewed together in the home.

### RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT FAMILY CULTURE

---

- Invite the student's culture into the school—Encourage students to share their language and culture.
- Use family skills or talents in the school.
- Post pictures, label items and include literature in the native language whenever possible.

In general, be aware that everyone experiences some type of culture shock when moving to a new country. Listen to students and observe their behavior. Encourage students to maintain communication with friends and family. Phone calls and email are ways to keep in touch with their home country. Explain the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Exercise, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep are important when coping with culture shock.

If students continue to have difficulty coping, connect them to professionals for additional counseling and support.

## RESOURCES

### Program Administration/Legal Obligations

#### **National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA)**

<https://ncela.ed.gov/>

The National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA) collects, coordinates and conveys a broad range of research and resources in support of an inclusive approach to high quality education for ELs and is funded by the Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students of the U.S. Department of Education.

#### **Nebraska Department of Education (NDE): Title III—English Language Acquisition**

<http://www.education.ne.gov/NATLORIGIN/>

The Title III webpage includes information on a variety of EL topics, including: Rule 15, K-12 Guidelines for English Language Proficiency, annual language testing, content testing accommodations, professional development, and links to Federal guidance.

#### **Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA)**

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html>

The mission of the Office of English Language Acquisition is to provide national leadership to help ensure that English learners and immigrant students attain English proficiency and achieve academic success. The office identifies major issues affecting the education of English language learners, assists and supports State and local systemic reform efforts that emphasize high academic standards, school accountability, professional development and parent involvement. OELA has created two useful documents to support English learner programs. They include the:

- [English Learner Toolkit](#)
- [Newcomer Toolkit](#)

#### **Office for Civil Rights (OCR)**

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/aboutocr.html>

The mission of the Office for Civil Rights is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights. OCR resolves complaints of discrimination, provides technical assistance, and engages in partnerships designed to develop creative approaches to preventing and addressing discrimination.

#### **TransACT**

<http://www.transact.com>

TransACT provides a comprehensive set of legally-reviewed forms and notices in a wide range of languages for both native English and limited-English speaking parents. TransACT helps K-12 educators nationwide achieve compliance with complex parent notification requirements.

## Instruction

### **Center on Instruction (COI)**

<http://www.centeroninstruction.org>

The Center on Instruction was funded by the U.S. Department of Education between 2005 and 2012 to support the 16 Regional Comprehensive Centers as they helped state education leaders close achievement gaps and improve teaching and learning for all students. The Center offers information and resources on topics including literacy, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Special Education, and English Language Learning, as well as other topics. Resources include syntheses of scientific research on instruction, practitioner guides, and opportunities for professional development. *Practical Guidelines for the Education of English Language Learners* is a series of four downloadable books. The guides provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, administrators, and teachers in K-12 settings who seek to make informed decisions about instruction and academic interventions for ELs.

### **Eastern Stream Center on Resources and Training (ESCORT)**

<http://www.easternstream.org/>

Resource guides to help busy (mainstream) teachers with practical, research-based advice on teaching, evaluating, and nurturing limited English proficient students.

### **National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)**

<http://www.nabe.org>

The National Association for Bilingual Education is a non-profit membership organization that works to advocate for educational equity and excellence for bilingual/multilingual students in a global society. NABE improves instructional practices for linguistically and culturally diverse children, provides bilingual educators with high-quality PD opportunities, secures funding for the programs serving limited-English-proficient students, and keeps the rights of language-minority Americans clearly in focus as states and communities move forward with educational reforms.

### **Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) English Language Proficiency Standards**

<https://www.education.ne.gov/natlorigin/ell-resources/>

### **Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Model**

<http://www.siopinstitute.net>

The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Model (Echevarria, Vogt & Short, 2000) was developed to provide teachers with a well-articulated, practical model of sheltered instruction. The intent of the model is to facilitate high quality instruction for English learners in content area teaching.

## Identification/Assessment

### **ELPA21 Screener and Summative Assessments for Nebraska**

<https://ne.portal.cambiumast.com/>

The ELPA21 Screener is available to all public Nebraska districts. The Nebraska portal includes practice tests, user guides and manuals, webinars, translated test directions, and secure browser information.

### **ELPA21**

<http://elpa21.org/>

ELPA21 is an assessment system designed to measure English Language Proficiency and is aligned to the English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards.

## General EL Information

### **Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)**

[www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org)

The Center for Applied Linguistics is a nonprofit organization promoting access, equity and mutual understanding for linguistically and culturally diverse people around the world. CAL conducts research, develops language assessments and instructional materials, provides professional development and technical assistance services, offers online courses, and disseminates information and resources related to language and culture.

### **MidAmerica Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (MIDTESOL)**

<http://www.midtesol.org/>

Midtesol's mission is to strengthen the effective teaching of English in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska to people whose native language is a language other than English while respecting their individual language rights. They provide tools and resources and offer an annual conference each fall.

### **Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)**

[www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org)

TESOL's mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching and learning for speakers of other languages worldwide.

### **Understanding Language: Language, Literacy, and Learning in the Content Areas**

<http://ell.stanford.edu>

The initiative aims to improve education for all students—especially English learners—in math, science, and English language arts; to develop knowledge and resources that help content area teachers meet students' linguistic needs as they address content standards. Understanding Language seeks to open a dialogue about language and literacy issues, bringing together leading thinkers, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers in the fields of language, literacy, mathematics, and science education.

## Specialized Resources/Miscellaneous

### **Ethnologue**

[www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com)

The purpose of the Ethnologue is to provide a comprehensive listing of the known living languages of the world. The demographic, geographic, vitality, development, and linguistic information can be useful to linguists, translators, anthropologists, bilingual educators, language planners, government officials, aid workers, potential field investigators, missionaries, students, and others with language interests.

### **Office of Migrant Education**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/mep/index.html>

The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that all migrant students reach challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma (or complete a GED) that prepares them for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment.

### **Office of Refugee Resettlement**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>

Founded on the belief that newly arriving populations have inherent capabilities when given opportunities, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) provides people in need with critical resources to assist them in becoming integrated members of American society.

## Teachers Resources

### **Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development**

[www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org)

ASCD is an educational leadership organization dedicated to advancing best practices and policies for the success of each learner.

[www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org)

ASCD is an educational leadership organization dedicated to advancing best practices and policies for the success of each learner.

### **Colorín Colorado**

<http://www.colorincolorado.org>

Colorín Colorado is a free web-based service that provides information, activities and advice for educators and Spanish-speaking families of English language learners (ELLs). Colorín Colorado's mission is to find research-based and best-practice information about teaching reading to English language learners (ELLs) and use the power and reach of the Internet to make it widely available to parents, educators, and policymakers.

### **Dave's ESL Café**

<http://www.eslcafe.com>

Resource for students and teachers with links to over 3,000 ESL related resources.

**Education Alliance (Brown University)**

<https://www.brown.edu/academics/education-alliance/>

The goal of this site is to enhance learning for culturally and linguistically diverse students by providing access to research-based information, strategies, and resources.

**EL Civics for ESL Students**

<http://www.elcivics.com>

Free civics and holiday lessons, Powerpoints, and activities for students and teachers.

**English Banana**

<http://www.englishbanana.com>

Website with resources and printables for ESL.

**Everything ESL**

<https://ellresourceideas.weebly.com/everything-esl.html>

Website maintained by Judie Haynes, an ESL teacher from New Jersey.

**Larry Ferlazzo's English Website**

<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/larry-ferlazzos-english-website/>

Website maintained by Larry Ferlazzo, an English teacher from California. He is the author or co-author of several books and hosts a popular education blog for English learners.

**Teaching Tolerance (Southern Poverty Law Center)**

<http://www.tolerance.org>

Teaching Tolerance is dedicated to helping teachers and schools educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy. They provide free educational materials to teachers and other school practitioners in the U.S. and abroad.

**The World Factbook (Central Intelligence Agency)**

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

The World Factbook provides information on the history, people and society, government, economy, energy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 267 world entities.

**United States Department of State (American English)**

<https://americanenglish.state.gov/>

American English is a resources center for teaching and learning about American English language and culture. There are materials and resources for teacher's professional development and teaching materials.