

RETENTION GUIDELINES

English Learner (EL) Students K-12

Retention of EL students shall not be based solely upon level of English language proficiency (Section I, Part G, Guidelines to Satisfy Legal Requirements of Lau v. Nichols). Prior to considering retention of an LEP student, the following points should be addressed in consultation with the ELL staff.

- **Has the student's level of English proficiency been assessed?**
Each spring, all EL students must participate in the LAS Links English proficiency assessment. Newly-enrolling students must be assessed for identification as an EL within thirty (30) days of enrollment at the beginning of the school year or within two (2) weeks during the school year.
- **Has the student received English as a Second Language (ESL) / English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction?**
- **To ensure meaningful participation and learning, are content area classroom modifications being made in the areas of**
 - **teacher lesson delivery;**
 - **assignments;**
 - **homework; and**
 - **formal assessments (quizzes and tests)?**
- **Has an alternate grading strategy been considered (e.g. a portfolio, contract, or rubric assessment)?**
- **Has the student received intervention services or supports to which he/she is entitled?**

If the above points have not occurred in a sufficient manner, retention may not be appropriate. Retention policies, especially for EL students, should not be based on one specific piece of data alone or any sole criterion. Also, the Connecticut Office of Civil Rights guidelines recommend the following:

- **Districts must have a written criteria or procedure for retaining ELL students.**
- **If a student is at grade-level in their native language, then retention is inappropriate.**

Retention of EL students will not facilitate English language acquisition. The process of language acquisition should occur at all grade levels.

Works Consulted

"Retention Guidelines for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students." [Online] Available <<http://www.doe.state.in.us/lmmp>>.