 **No. 123**

**SECTION: PROGRAMS**

**TITLE: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

**MEDICAL ACADEMY ADOPTED: 10/8/13**

**CHARTER SCHOOL REVISED:**

123. ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

In accordance with the Board's philosophy to provide a quality educational program to all students, the school shall provide an appropriate planned instructional program for identified students whose native language is not English.

The purpose of the program is to increase the English language proficiency of eligible students so that they can attain the academic standards adopted by the Board and achieve academic success.

The school shall provide a program for each student whose native language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student’s achievement of English proficiency and the academic standards. The program shall include English as a Second Language instruction. The program shall meet the three-pronged test of program compliance: sound research-based education theory; sufficient resources and staffed by appropriately prepared personnel; and periodic program evaluation.

The Board shall include the provisions for the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) program in its Strategic Plan.

The Board shall include provisions for the LEP professional education for ESL teachers, classroom teachers of LEP students and new teachers in its professional development plan.

The Board shall establish procedures for identification of students whose native language is not English. The Home Language Survey shall be completed for every student in the school and filed in the student’s permanent record folder through graduation. For students whose native language is not English, assessment of the student’s English proficiency level must be completed to determine the need for English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction.

The Principal/CEO or designee shall implement and supervise an ESL program that meets the legal requirements for ESL compliance.

The Principal/CEO or designee, in conjunction with appropriate stakeholders, shall develop and disseminate written procedures regarding the ESL program, including:

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1. Program goals.

2. Student enrollment procedures (i.e. Home Language Survey).

3. Assessment procedures for program entrance, measuring progress in gaining English

proficiency, and program exiting.

4. Accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs) in the classroom.

5. Grading policies.

6. List of resources including support agencies and interpreters.

Guidelines For The ESL

LEP students shall be enrolled upon presentation of a local address and proof of immunization.

The ESL/Bilingual Program shall be designed to provide instruction to meet each student's individual needs, based on the assessment of English proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Adequate content area support shall be provided while the student is learning English, to ensure achievement of academic standards.

A certified teacher and, if necessary, appropriate support staff (e.g., teacher aides) shall provide the ESL program.

Instructional resources shall be comparable to the resources provided for other core academic subjects.

The program shall be evaluated for effectiveness based on the attainment of English proficiency. If ELLs are not learning English, the program shall be changed to ensure greater success.

The ELLs shall be required to meet established academic standards and graduation requirements, with accommodations, as adopted by the Board.

Students shall have access to and should be encouraged to participate in all academic and extracurricular activities available in the school.

Communication with parents/guardians shall include information about assessment, academic achievement and other related education issues in the language understood by the parent/guardian whenever possible.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1205.1, 1205.2

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.13, 4.26, 11.11

Equal Education Opportunity Act, amending Educational Amendments of 1974 –

20 U.S.C. Sec. 1703

No Child Left Behind Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6801 et seq.

Improving Academic Achievement, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR

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