



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

Background

Board Policy 1: Board Mandate, Mission, Vision, Values and Goals calls us to honour our diversity and implement best practices in education to support the learning needs of all students. Holy Spirit Catholic School Division values the cultural diversity among its students and welcomes students from throughout the world. English as an Additional Language learners (EALs) enter our school division with numerous strengths, gifts and a wealth of experience. We also recognize the challenges that English Language Learners face while adjusting to their new language and environment. As such, we are committed to providing high quality programming for all students in an environment that values cultural diversity. High quality instructional practices and programming are intended to provide students with the social and language skills necessary to participate and contribute within Canadian society.

To ensure high quality English language learning programming, Holy Spirit Catholic School Division supports a wide range of programs and supports, including but not limited to:

- Instructional Resources;
- Consultation with the Director of Support Services;
- Professional learning opportunities;
- Language proficiency assessments;
- Connection with relevant external agencies.

Definition

Alberta Education (2024) defines EAL learners as “children and students, born in or outside of Canada, who have a home language(s) other than English and who require and receive support to develop their English language proficiency.”

Alberta Education identifies four categories of coding for EAL:

- 301: Foreign-born students whose first language is not English and who require English language support
- 302: International students who require English language support (unfunded)
- 303: Canadian born students whose first language is not English and who require English language support
- 640: Foreign-born refugee status students whose first language is not English, and who require English language support

Procedures

1. The Principal or designate shall be responsible for:
 - 1.1 Ensuring appropriate intake processes are in place for EAL students and their families
 - 1.2 The identification of Canadian born, foreign born and refugee students who require EAL funding and supports
 - 1.3 Entering appropriate funding codes according to Alberta Education regulations
 - 1.4 Entering language proficiency levels in the divisional student information system for transmitting to Alberta Education
 - 1.5 Ensuring accurate maintenance of EAL data and recording keeping as required by Alberta Education
 - 1.6 The identification of students who are no longer eligible for funding but would benefit from continued EAL supports and services
2. The school is responsible for meeting the needs of English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners. Each school shall:
 - 2.1 Provide a continuum of supports and services for students identified as EAL learners
 - 2.2 Use the Alberta Education K-12 EAL Proficiency Benchmarks 2.0 at the outset of a student being identified and coded as an English as an Additional Language learner and communicate language proficiency levels to students and their parents / guardians
 - 2.3 Complete an annual assessment of language proficiency development to inform instructional planning
 - 2.4 Use ongoing assessment and monitoring of EAL students' language proficiency to inform instructional planning and the provision of timely and appropriate learning supports
 - 2.5 Maintain and supporting evidence that reflects programming and assessment for EAL learners requiring English language development support.
 - 2.6 Provide educational programming for EAL learners, ensuring instruction in all four (4) language domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing
 - 2.7 Provide flexible, student-centered instructional support that meets the needs of EAL learners in a manner that respects and values each student's language and cultural background

References **Sections 3, 16(1), 17, 19, 33, *Education Act***
 Alberta Education: Funding Manual for School Authorities
 Alberta Education: Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12
