

Ohio English Learner Advisory Committee Overview

Purpose

The Ohio Department of Education created an Ohio English Learner Advisory Committee to gather meaningful input in determining the educational needs of English learners. The committee provides to the Department and the Lau Resource Center feedback on best practices, resources and recommendations to further the shared goal of improving educational programs for English learners.

Membership

The committee includes representation indicative of Ohio's varied educational programs and geographic diversity. Members are invited by the Department of Education to participate. The members of the advisory committee may include:

- A. English learner program administrators, including coordinators of Title III, bilingual, dual-language, migrant and refugee programs;
- B. English learner educators across the typology of Ohio's public, community and private schools, grades preK-12;
- C. Specialized instructional support professionals, such as school psychologists, guidance counselors, speech and language therapists, and intervention and reading specialists who work with multilingual populations;
- D. Educational service center and state support team staff who deliver professional development related to English learners;
- E. Representatives from state agencies and local community organizations who work with specific populations of English learners and their families;
- F. Representatives from institutions of higher education that provide preservice, in-service and graduate teachers of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) training programs to Ohio educators; and
- G. Others with subject matter expertise.

The Department selects members through the Department's application process. Members serve four-year terms that will initially be staggered in four- and two-year terms. There are currently no term limits; members may re-apply for membership at the end of a term. If a member does not fulfill his or her term, the vacancy will be filled through the Department's application process. Members are expected to attend all regular meetings. If a member is unable to attend a meeting, an alternate representative should be designated to attend.

Norms of Collaboration

Committee meetings will be conducted under the following norms of collaboration for members:

- A. Always presume positive intentions;
- B. Commit to attend and be an active participant;
- C. Show respect for fellow members;
- D. Come prepared to every meeting;
- E. Think outside the box for solutions;
- F. Be results-oriented; and
- G. Silence electronic devices.

Meetings

The committee typically meets twice per year, once in late spring and again in the fall. In addition to these meetings, the committee may meet as-needed basis as requested by the Department of Education. The Department of Education will set the time and location of the meetings and agenda.