

Supporting English Learners

Local School District Liaison Duties, Roles and Responsibilities

In Ohio, each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society. Ohio's strategic plan for education, [Each Child, Our Future](#) highlights the importance of providing accessible, high-quality instruction and whole child supports to students who are English learners.

English learners are students who are learning English as a second or additional language and require linguistic supports to access and engage with the general education curriculum. To that end, responsiveness and sensitivity are key to meeting the needs of the whole child when engaging Ohio's English learners. The English learner point of contact should have knowledge of the responsibilities schools and districts have to identify, assess and provide English learners with access to the full school curriculum and programs.

Supporting the whole child who is an English learner requires awareness of how language develops, the science of teaching students to read English as a new language, culturally appropriate pedagogy and knowledge of the obligations schools have to provide safe schools and academic access to English learners. Strong collaboration skills to work with colleagues and families with limited English proficiency are essential.

Designating a point of contact for English learners can increase positive collaboration, facilitate supports for students and families and streamline communication between partners. The English learner contact may be the coordinator for English learner programs or another individual who is able to connect students to those who implement the school and district plans to address priorities that include:

- District English learner identification process and instructional programs for English learners;
- School utilization of funding to provide supports ([Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) Title III requirements);
- Delivery of specialized supports for students with limited English language proficiency;
- Coordination with world languages programs and the Ohio Seal for Biliteracy;
- Provision of communications that are understandable to diverse families;
- Coordination of the school and district "[Language Access Support Plan](#)."

The Department will provide timely information to help schools identify and designate the English learner point of contact on the Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Educational Directory System. Please send a message to the [English learner coordinator](#) in the Office of Integrated Student Supports at lau@education.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-4109.