



NEWS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 21 ,2017

Department of Education Offers New Guidance for English Learners

Article from Education News Written by Grace Smith

English learners have been given a boost by the US Department of Education by way of non-regulatory guidance released to assist states, schools, and districts in providing adequate services to improve proficiency of the English language and academic achievement for ELs, according to a release from the Department.

The move is being accomplished through the support of Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The guidance is aimed at ensuring that ELs receive the services needed to be college and career ready.

“In too many places across the country, English learners get less access to quality teachers, less access to advanced coursework, and less access to the resources they need to succeed. Together, we can change that reality,” said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. “Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, we have an opportunity to give students the gift of bilingualism and of multilingualism so they are prepared for college and career with a better sense of themselves, their community, their future, and a better appreciation for our diversity as a country.”

The guidance will include information about Title III funds available to ELs and the distribution and design for language instruction educational programs. It will also offer information on engaging families, parents, and community.

Information will be included on the types of EL populations, such as early learners, former ELs, students who are immigrants, and ELs with disabilities. Rights of ELs will be clarified as related to federal civil rights law supports and services. And a list of resources and publications for those who work with ELs will be made available to educators.

The Every Student Succeeds Act is a commitment to equal opportunity for all students. The Department’s website explains that the ESSA was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, with the Obama administration understanding that the previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind Act, needed updating because its prescriptive requirements had become [unwieldy for educators and schools](#).

A better law was created and focused clearly on preparing all students for successful college experiences and thriving careers. “All students” meant young people of any race, income, zip code, disability, home language, or background. Susan Jones writes for the CNS News that in the last several decades, ELs have become the [fastest-growing demographic](#) in US schools. Currently, the Education Department reports that they make up almost 10% of the American student population. This percentage amounts to roughly 4.8 million English learners. The Title III funds may also be used to enhance the skills and knowledge-base of educators who serve ELs.

The DoE points out that Title III funds are available to supplement, not replace, the programs that are required to be provided to ELs by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, and any other state or local legislation.

Local education agencies (LEAs) must ensure that preparation and professional development for teachers of ELs and school leaders improve instruction, increase teachers’ and school leaders’ ability to offer an effective curriculum for ELs, increase students’ English proficiency and improve ELs’ academic performance.

Here are links to the WEA and NEA Issues and Actions pages so that you can stay current on the political actions affecting you and your students and families.

<https://www.washingtonea.org/ourvoice/>

<http://www.nea.org/home/IssuesAndAction.html>

Washington schools rank near the bottom in narrowing rich-poor achievement gap

Originally published January 9, 2017 at 6:00 am Updated January 9, 2017 at 11:16 am

Overall, Washington earned a C grade on Education Week's Quality Counts survey and finished 20th, with a score of 75 out of 100 possible points.

By Paige Cornwell

Seattle Times staff reporter

In an annual survey of each state's public-education system, Washington ranked near the bottom when it came to narrowing the gap in performance between low-income students and their wealthier classmates.

Washington ranked second to last in that category in the Quality Counts ratings, produced by Education Week, a national news outlet. The District of Columbia placed last. Yet Washington ranked 13th in overall K-12 achievement. That indicator combines the numbers from 18 different measures like graduation rates, reading and math performance and Advanced Placement test scores.

Overall, Washington earned a C in the survey, with the 20th-highest score of 75 out of 100 possible points. That's slightly higher than last year, when the state was ranked 22nd.

Overall, the analysis looked at three main indicators: "chance for success," school finance and K-12 achievement.

The chance-for-success index looks at a number of factors, including a state's average family income, preschool enrollment and percentage of adults with postsecondary degrees. Washington state earned a B- in "chance for success," and ranked 23rd. It scored a C- in school finance, which looks at school spending patterns and equity in how money is distributed among districts

Massachusetts ranked first for the third year in a row. Though Washington and Massachusetts' student populations are comparable, a Seattle Times Education Lab story found that the two states approach funding in very different ways.

Oregon and California both received a C- grade and ranked 40th and 42nd. Idaho ranked fourth from the bottom with a D+ grade.

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Information and News you need to know

Deadlines to keep in mind

PG&E Dates

Comprehensive Cycle: 2nd observation after January 1st and before May 1st. Observation documentation must be to the employee within 5 working days after observation. (CBA page 105)

Focused Cycle: First required observation to be completed prior to February 1st. Observation documentation to the employee within 5 working days after observation. (CBA page 112)

Retirement Seminars

Social Security
March 14, 2017
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Don't forget to sign up for your **my Social Security** Account and print out your statement to bring with you. www.ssa.gov/myaccount

The seminars will be held at Highline Public Schools Central Office, 15675 Ambaum Blvd. SW, Burien WA 98166. If you have any questions please contact [Gianna White](#).

Please register for the seminars [here](#).



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Know Your Contract Quiz

How many hours of instructional assistant time is assigned for each section of all day kindergarten?

A) 1 hour B) 3 hours C) 5 hours

Please email your answers to Stephanie Steel - highlineeasst@washingtonea.org, and everyone with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for a \$10 coffee card.

Congratulations to Roberta Reardon our January quiz winner!

Calendar of Events

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|-----------------|--|
| February 27 | HEA E Board Meeting - HEA Office 4:15 p.m. |
| March 18, | Saturday School Click Here for More Information |
| April 3rd – 7th | Spring Break - No School |
| April 13 – 15 | WEA RA Spokane Convention Center |
| May 1 – 5 | HEA E Board Elections Voting in Buildings |
| May 25 | Retirement Social Cedarbrook Lodge 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. |

It's time to prepare for Tax Season

Did you know that your union dues are tax deductible? They are and if you are preparing for doing this years taxes you can find the tax deduction table [here](#).

Please contact [Stephanie Steel](#) if you have any questions.