

POLICY STATEMENT

Section: School Programs

- **Courses and Curriculum**

Policy Code: ES-3.17

**Policy: ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS/ENGLISH
LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

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The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board commits to offering supportive and welcoming environments for English language learners in partnership with the community and Ontario Ministries. English language learners experience a range of schooling and life experiences, including in the country of origin, little or interrupted schooling in their first language, and Canadian-born English learners. Students are learning the language of instruction and the curriculum content at the same time.

We acknowledge the positive impact of diversity increasing in our schools. English language learners will develop their talents, meet their goals, and acquire the knowledge and skills that will enable them to be active participants in Ontario. When students see the staff in the school embrace the opportunity to learn about a student's culture, students feel valued. Likewise, when previously developed language skills are acknowledged, a sense of stability and continuity are created. All students benefit from the opportunity to increase their understanding of other cultures and awareness of global issues.

Positive outcomes of learning an additional language include increased understanding of relationships to community and culture, mental flexibility, improved problem-solving skills, a better understanding of aspects of culture and expanded career opportunities. Through meaningful interactions, students learn to use the language by hearing, speaking, reading then writing.

Services to support English language learners are established and retained based on enrolment and student needs.

This policy is informed by:

English Language Learners, ESL and ELD Programs and Services: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2007

Supporting English Language Learners: A Practical Guide for Ontario Educators, 2008

Supporting English Language Learners with Limited Prior Schooling: A Practical Guide for Ontario Educators, 2008

English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development Curriculum, 9-12, 2007