

This tool cites the relevant Title I requirements for notifying parents of their children's EL status and their right to opt their children out of EL programs or particular EL services. SEAs and LEAs that receive Title I or Title III funds should be familiar with the requirements of Title I and Title III and ensure parental notification letters include all statutorily required elements.

TITLE I: SECTION 1112(e)(3) AND (e)(4) OF THE ESEA (20 USC 6312)

(3) LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION.—

(A) NOTICE.—Each local educational agency using funds under this part or title III to provide a language instruction educational program as determined under title III shall, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, inform parents of an English learner identified for participation or participating in such a program, of—

- (i) the reasons for the identification of their child as an English learner and in need of placement in a language instruction educational program;
- (ii) the child's level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, and the status of the child's academic achievement;
- (iii) the methods of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be, participating and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instructional goals, and the use of English and a native language in instruction;
- (iv) how the program in which their child is, or will be, participating will meet the educational strengths and needs of their child;
- (v) how such program will specifically help their child learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;
- (vi) the specific exit requirements for the program, including the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for English learners, and the expected rate of graduation from high school (including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates for such program) if funds under this part are used for children in high schools;
- (vii) in the case of a child with a disability, how such program meets the objectives of the individualized education program of the child, as described in section 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)); and
- (viii) information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance—
 - (I) detailing the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request;
 - (II) detailing the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available; and
 - (III) assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than 1 program or method is offered by the eligible entity.

(B) SPECIAL RULE APPLICABLE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.—For those children who have not been identified as English learners prior to the beginning of the school year but are identified as English learners during such school year, the local educational agency shall notify the children’s parents during the first 2 weeks of the child being placed in a language instruction educational program consistent with subparagraph (A).

(C)*

(D)*

(4) NOTICE AND FORMAT.—The notice and information provided to parents under this subsection shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

*Sections (C) and (D) of the statute are omitted, as they are not directly relevant to the information in this tool.
Source: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, §1112(e)(3) and (e)(4), 20 USC 6312 (2015). Retrieved from <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/essa-actof-1965.pdf>