MLL Program
Portsmouth School Department

an overview

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Instructional Model

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has approved six instructional models for use. Districts have the prerogative to select a model of instruction that best fits the needs of students and staff. The Portsmouth School Department uses the *Collaborative ESL and General Instruction* model.

MLL vs. EL vs. ESL

Over the years, the terms used to define and describe language learning students and programs have evolved. These updates have been disputed by some because of confusing acronyms. Here are a few of the common acronyms you may see in literature:

✔ MLL = multilingual learner (term currently used in Rhode Island)

✔ EL = English learner (former term used in Rhode Island)

✔ ELL = English language learner (term currently used in Massachusetts)

✔ ESL = English as a second language (still found in many state and federal documents)

✔ L1 = the first language a student acquired

✔ L2 = the second language a student acquired (usually English)

Translators and Interpreters

If a family has requested that school communication take place in another language, then we are required to accommodate this request. This does not necessarily mean that the student is learning English. It is only used as an alert to let you know the language preference of the parents or guardians. Many of our English-speaking students have family members who need language support.

Formal & Legal documents

All interpreter and translation requests need to be made through your school's administrator or designee. These requests are then forwarded to Student the Office of Services (683-1039, ext 1016). All legal documents and correspondence associated with IEPs, 504s, and discipline are required to be professionally translated whenever possible.

Informal & Social documents

Brief email messages to parents can be sent out using **Google Translate** or **Microsoft Translator.** The more concise the message, the higher the probability that your intent will translate properly. Always include an English version with your translated message. Parents often share school messages with other English-speaking family members.

The WIDA Consortium

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) organization is the professional consortium that RIDE belongs to. There are 41 states in the consortium. WIDA provides professional development, student learning, and assessment standards that promote high achievement and academic success in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The five WIDA standards are: Social & Instructional language, the language of Language Arts, the language of Mathematics, the language of Science, and the language of Social Studies.

WIDA Access Testing

The WIDA Access test is the required annual standardized test that every MLL student participates in. Students are tested in their English language development in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Test scores are used to determine program eligibility and direction of instruction. The administration window is early January to mid-February. Results will be available for parent and teacher review in May.

WIDA Screener

The WIDA Screener is the tool that is used to determine if a student is in need of language development services. The areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking are assessed and a composite score determines eligibility.

2023 - 2024 Professional Development for Educators

There are dozens of opportunities to learn best practices for supporting our second language learners. The WIDA Consortium and RIDE provide professional workshops for educators interested in supporting MLL students. Contact Karen Ragland (raglandk@portsmouthschoolsri.org) for an account. Current online topics offered by WIDA https://wida.wisc.edu/grow/us-based-pl/elearning:

- **Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics**

  This workshop will focus on recognizing and designing mathematics instruction that simultaneously strengthens both mathematical reasoning and language development for multilingual learners.

- **Engaging Multilingual Learners in Science: Making Sense of Phenomena**

  This workshop provides multiple strategies for engaging multilingual students in the central work of sensemaking in science.

- **Exploring the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions**

  This workshop gives PreK-3 educators an opportunity to build their knowledge and understanding of the Essential Actions and to reflect on their own ideologies, practices, and settings.

- **Home Languages in the Classroom**

  This workshop is designed to support K-12 educators in setting up routines and learning activities that promote the use of home languages in their classrooms.

- **Making Language Visible in the Classroom**

  This workshop, designed for K-12 educators, focuses on intentional language instruction in the classroom using the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 edition.

- **Newcomers: Promoting Success through Strengthening Practice**

  This workshop offers opportunities for K-12 educators to challenge personal and systemic biases, create atmospheres and systems of shared responsibility, and incorporate and build on rich resources that multilingual newcomers bring.

- **Reframing Education of Long Term English Learners**

  This workshop is designed for K-12 educators and administrators that support the teaching of multilingual learners who could be classified as long-term English learners (LTELs).

- **Social Studies: Engaging Multilingual Learners through Inquiry**

  This workshop will focus on the use of student and class assets to plan inquiry-based instruction.

- **WIDA ELD Standards Framework: A Collaborative Approach**

  This workshop explores ways to use the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition to support multilingual learners' achievement and language development.

Language Learning Programs for Students

Many students enjoy augmenting their language learning by signing into a variety of program options. Below are programs that have been vetted by RIDE.

Mango Languages
https://mangolanguages.com/
This program is free for Portsmouth students and is sponsored by the state library system.

Duolingo
https://www.duolingo.com/
This program is free and is popular with students because it is easy to use.

LH LingoHut
https://www.lingohut.com/
This program is free and is aimed at older students. Very easy to use.

Memrise
https://www.memrise.com/
This program is free and focuses on vocabulary development.

Language Support Resources for Educators

IXL
https://www.ixl.com/
IXL has targeted math lessons for Spanish-speakers. At this time, this is the extent of what is offered through IXL.

Khan Academy
https://www.khanacademy.org/

Khan Academy offers a variety of course content that is available in other languages. The language options are available in settings.

iCivics
https://www.icivics.org/news/product-announcement/9-icivics-games-english-language-learners-supports?page=2
Each game offers the option to play in Spanish or English; English-language voiceover; glossary; gameplay scaffolds, embedded & printable content guides; accompanying Extension Pack with game-specific expansion activities and tips.

RIDE Approved Glossaries

NYU Resource Network
https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/language-rbern/resources/bilingual-glossaries-and-cognates
This is an extensive list of bilingual glossaries of academic terms for grade levels K to 12. Available in 40 languages; core academic content covering 20 subjects.

Babel Linguistics
https://babel-linguistics.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Glossary-Art2.pdf
An English - Spanish glossary of art terms.

YouTube Channels

VOA Learning English
https://learningenglish.voanews.com/
This Voice of America channel features news and human interest stories in American English, but spoken 33% slower than regular broadcast speed to make it easier to follow along. Through this method of immersive learning, students can explore a wide range of English vocabulary subjects.

Listen and Read Along
https://www.youtube.com/user/ListenAndReadAlong
This is exactly what it sounds like: listening to stories and reading along with them by following a highlighted word. Students can hear pronunciation and intonation while getting a better grasp on sentence structure within the English language.

TOEFL TV
https://www.youtube.com/user/TOEFLtv
Students can get English-learning tips and learn about questions that appear on the TOEFL test.

OMGmeiyu's channel
https://www.youtube.com/user/OMGmeiyu
This site is geared especially toward native Chinese-speakers. YouTube user OMGmeiyu uses her animated style and knowledge of Chinese to help native Chinese speakers learn English in a fun and relatable way.

English with Jennifer
https://www.youtube.com/user/JenniferESL
The host of this channel is an ideal ESL teacher for those who need more guidance than simply reading from websites. The user's videos are separated into playlists covering vocabulary, verb tenses, pronunciation, and more.

Rachel's English
https://www.youtube.com/user/rachelsenglish/featured
Host Rachel offers a plethora of videos to help students learn all about American English pronunciation, including specific sounds you should make, as well as mouth position. New videos are uploaded to the site each week.

EF podEnglish
https://www.youtube.com/@podEnglish/videos
With English lessons on this site broken up into five-minute chunks and filtered by skill level, students can fit in a quick lesson through this modular method whenever they have the time.

BBC Learning English's Channel
https://www.youtube.com/@bbclearningenglish/featured
This YouTube channel has just as much to offer. Students can watch "The Flatmates," a soap opera made for learning English, as well as learn about different idioms and more.