

Lexington Public Schools

Declining Services

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Declining Services

Declining Entry to the Program or Requesting a Waiver

If a parent/caregiver chooses to decline English Language Education (ELE) services, either by opting out or requesting a waiver into a different program, the ELE Director must be notified. All requests must be submitted in writing and renewed each school year.

Opting Out of ELE Services

When a parent/caregiver opts out, they are requesting that their child not receive direct ESL instruction outside of the general education classroom. This is the most common type of request.

When a parent/caregiver requests to opt out, the ELE Director will review the student's English language assessment results, academic performance, and, when applicable, MCAS results with the parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver chooses to proceed, they will be informed that:

- The student will continue to be identified as an English Learner (EL).
- The student is required to participate in all state-mandated English language proficiency assessments, including the annual ACCESS assessment.
- The student's academic progress and English language development will continue to be monitored by the ESL teacher.
- The student may re-enter the ELE program at any time while they remain eligible for ELE services.

If an EL who has opted out begins to experience academic difficulty related to English language development, the school principal and the ELE

Director will review the student's progress and may recommend re-enrollment in ELE services.

Requesting a Program Waiver

A program waiver is different from opting out of ELE services. Through a waiver, a parent/caregiver requests placement in a different instructional program, such as one that includes native language instruction. Waivers are granted only under the conditions established by Massachusetts state regulations and are considered on an individual basis.

For more information about declining English Language Education (ELE) services or requesting a program waiver, please contact your child's ESL teacher.