



English Learner Program

By Dr. Liann Hanson, Director of Standards-Based Instruction

FPS English Learner Program: Bridging Linguistic and Cultural Diversity

The Fargo Public Schools English Learner Program welcomes Jenna Polley as our new EL Facilitator! Polley comes to us with seven years as an EL teacher and leader from a school district in Minnesota. During her time, she built the EL program from the ground up, mentored teachers based on current teaching methods and accommodations, fostered students' social-emotional, linguistic, and academic growth, and created positive school-to-home connections with EL families. We are excited she is working with our EL teachers, students, and families across the district!

We continue to emphasize the role our EL Program has in educating and empowering all students to succeed, regardless of their background or needs. This commitment reflects the program's core values of inclusivity and equity, ensuring that each student, including English learners, can thrive in Fargo Public Schools.

Throughout this year, we will work on and update our EL Program Plan to follow state and federal guidelines. These changes reflect the program's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality education and support for English learners.

With about 850 English Learners across various grade levels and nationalities, we are working with our EL teachers across the district to align the WIDA Proficiency Level to the number of service minutes for each student. We have also clarified in the EL Program Plan the definitions and acronyms, ensuring that all stakeholders understand critical terms related to English learners, such as EL (English Learner), ELP (English Language Proficiency), and ELD (English Language Development). These definitions provide a common language for educators, parents, and students to navigate the program effectively.

Our EL Program Plan also defines the ILP procedures, ensuring each English learner has an Individualized Language Plan outlining specific goals and objectives to increase English proficiency. Regular meetings with a language support team, including classroom teachers and administrators, contribute to effective collaboration and support for ELs.

Finally, it has been a joy to work with our EL staff, witness the passion they have for our students, and see the care and dedication they put forth to ensure that each student is supported appropriately. EL teachers, administrators, and support staff play a vital role in providing a supportive and enriching environment for English learners. We have an unwavering commitment to fostering inclusivity and equity, ensuring that each English learner receives the support they need to succeed academically and culturally within the Fargo Public Schools system.

