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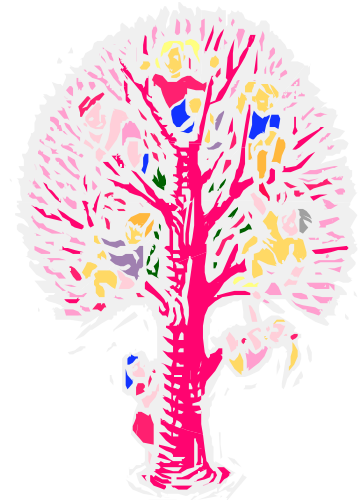
Structuring Education to Meet the Needs of Bilingual Students

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The terms **LEP**, **ELL** and **ESL** are commonly used in many educational settings but they are not often defined. They all refer to students whose native language is not English.

In Minnesota, from our largest urban districts to our smaller rural districts, the composition of children in our schools is becoming more diverse. This diversity is encompassed by their cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds.

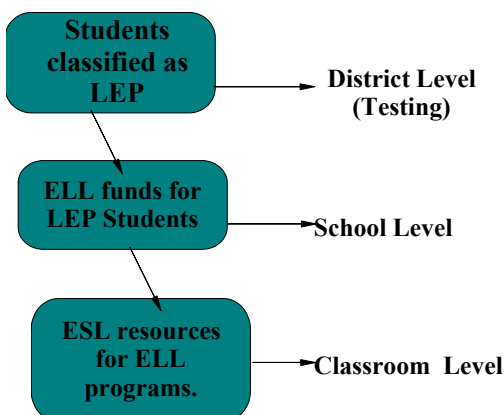
Many schools follow a model of integration to incorporate the needs of diverse learners, it is called the *Inclusion Model*. This model which formerly was known as main streaming has a debatable impact on bilingual students. At times main streaming, or attempting to include all students in a lesson with minimal adaptations to the large group can further hinder the progress of Non-native English Speakers.



Bilingual students who come to school with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) often find it difficult to perform and learn at the same rate as native English speakers. Common challenge for these students results from unfamiliarity with the meanings, pronunciation and writing of many English words.

As a result many schools are beginning to incorporate resources for English Language Learners (ELL) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes specifically intended to provide instruction based on the challenges faced by non-English speakers.

How are LEP, ELL and ESL related?
At what level are each incorporated.



An **LEP** student is defined as a student whose native language or the dominant language spoken in the home is something other than English. An additional definition says that students whose scores are significantly below the average district score on a nationally norm-referenced district test in the areas of English reading or English language arts are classified as LEP students.

The term **ELL** is used to define students who are non-native English speakers classified as LEP. Whereas **ESL** refers to programs for students, who are non-native English speakers. For the purpose of providing appropriate services to help these students learn, LEP students are provided with ELL and ESL resources in the schools and classrooms by state and federal governments.

ELL and ESL resources are often in the form of teachers and paraprofessionals who speak the native languages of students and who are trained especially in the methods of addressing challenges faced by these students. The funding also provides materials, assessments and continued development of ELL and ESL resources for LEP students.

Designating LEP Students and Schools: Two Methods

The first is to have families fill out a Home Language Questionnaire (HLQ). The HLQ identifies the primary language spoken in the student's home and can be created by the district or obtained from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning. They should be translated into the native language of the parents.

The second method is performed through testing. Tests that are used to determine if students should be classified as LEP are nationally norm-referenced tests (i.e., Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Metropolitan Achievement Test) chosen by each district.

Resources in Bilingual Education

- ❖ Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. Website: www.educ.state.mn.us/lep
- ❖ The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), University of Minnesota. Website: carla.acad.umn.edu
- ❖ University of Minnesota, College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Website: education.umn.edu/CI/Fields/lang-grad.html
- ❖ Your local school district's central office.

Did you know?

Did you know that "ants on a log" is not just something you can see on a nature hike! It actually refers to a healthy snack that kids of all ages will love.

To make ants on a log you will need:

- 1 bag of celery**
- 1 box of raisins**
- 1 jar of peanut butter**



Cut the celery stalks in half and spread peanut butter in each one. Then place a couple of raisins on each log and call the kids for their very own nature hike!