

ESOL Services and Supports
Frequently Asked Questions

ELL COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the ELL Committee?

This committee is a required component of the Florida Consent Decree and is for the purpose of making programmatic decisions for ELL students (ie: Retention, ESE considerations, exit from ESOL before proficiency is reached, etc.). This meeting can take place in conjunction with another meeting regarding the student.

What would be the reasons to hold an ELL Committee?

ELL Committees could be held for a variety of reasons, some being retention decisions, ESE considerations, and when deciding whether to continue ESOL services for a 4th, 5th or 6th year.

How will we know which students need an ELL Committee meeting?

The Compliance Teacher will identify students needing an ELL Committee meeting.

What are the duties of the ELL Chairperson?

The ELL chairperson will schedule the meeting, including inviting staff and the parent. The chairperson will facilitate the meeting, making sure that linguistic and cultural aspects are taken into consideration along with other student data when making programmatic decisions.

What are the duties of the ESOL Contact?

The ESOL Contact (an assistant principal) is the point of communication between the school and the offices of OTL and SSPS. The ESOL Contact will ensure that the ELL Chair conducts the required meetings for ELL students.

Who are the required members of the committee?

The required members of the committee are an administrator, a guidance counselor, and the student's ELA or English teacher. Others who have input to offer may be invited. The parent must be invited, but is not required to attend.

What is the role of the members of the committee?

The role of all members is to make thoughtful and careful programmatic decisions for ELL students through a meeting that examines linguistic and cultural implication, as well as all other academic data.

What is the role of the Compliance Teacher?

The Compliance Teacher will identify students needing an ELL Committee meeting, as they will be monitoring the student folders. Typically, they will not participate in the ELL Committee meetings.

How often do ELL Committees take place?

The majority of the meetings typically take place either at the end or beginning of the year, during the time that students are being reevaluated and a decision regarding continuation of service is being made. Other meetings take place only as needed when there are questions about retention, ESE services, a student's academic program, or a need for ESOL services, for example. The reasons can be varied and unique but generally there are only a handful of these types of meetings.

Is the new MIS 455 required for this meeting?

Yes, the MIS 455, along with conference notes and a parent invitation are required documents that must be placed in the cumulative folder as documentation of the meeting. **

CELLA QUESTIONS

What is CELLA?

CELLA is the annual Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment that measures your students' growth in English over the course of a year. It is a reflection of the English instruction and learning for your ELL students in your school. NCLB requires each state that receives Title III funds assess this growth and report it each year to the parents. There are 3 AMAO (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives):

- AMAO 1 = Progress in English language acquisition
- AMAO 2 = Percentage of students who become proficient in English
- AMAO 3 = Performance in reading and math showing if enough progress is being made in the current year to be on track to reduce the percentage of non-proficient students by half by 2016-17

This year the District School Board of Pasco County met AMAO 1 but did not meet 2 and 3.

When is the CELLA test window for 2014?

CELLA administration will take place March 3-April 4.

Who will administer CELLA?

CELLA is a high stakes test just like FCAT. Only certified personnel can administer the CELLA exam. Non-instructional personnel may serve as proctors just as they would during FCAT. Schools will plan the administration of the CELLA for their students.

Will Compliance Teachers administer CELLA?

Compliance Teachers and other district personnel can assist during the CELLA test window, just as all district personnel assist schools during FCAT. Compliance Teachers, however, will not coordinate the administration of the test.

Who will send out the required FCAT & CELLA letters informing parents of the assessment?

We have not officially designated this task, however, ESOL Instructional Assistants and ELL Chairs may assist in this task. They can be mass-produced and sent home with students.

****A district parent invitation and conference form are in the process of being created. Until these forms are available, the existing ELL Parent Invite and Conference Form may be used.**

