



Tip Sheet

No Child Left Behind

What Parents Need to Know About

English Language Learners

No Child Left Behind is the education plan that was signed into law by President Bush January 08, 2002. It is designed to improve student achievement, and decrease the achievement gap. The law includes a number of important opportunities for parents to be involved with the schools. These Tip Sheets from Parents Plus are designed to help parents understand their rights under the law.

The law says that parents of children who are learning to speak English and who are in schools that receive Title III funds for “limited English proficient” (LEP) children must be told, without asking, if their child has been placed in an English language instruction program. Parents have the right to “opt out” of this placement and choose another method or program of instruction. This notification must include information about the following:

- The reasons why their child has been identified as limited English proficient (LEP) and why their child has been placed in a program for LEP students.
- The child’s level of English proficiency, including how the level was determined and how well the child is doing academically.
- The method of teaching that will be used in the program, including options for other programs besides the one the student has been placed in.
- How the program will meet the child’s educational strengths and needs.
- How the program will help the child learn English and perform well in school.
- The requirements the child must meet to leave the program, including when that will happen and when graduation from high school is expected.
- How the program will meet the objectives of an individualized education plan (IEP) for a child with a disability.

In addition, the district must inform parents of LEP children in writing about their rights and should be clear about the following:

- Parents’ right to have their child removed immediately from a language instruction program, if they request it.
- Parents’ rights to decide not to enroll their child in such a program, or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available.
- How the district will assist parents to select the best program for their child, if more than one program or method of instruction is offered.

Finally, the district is required to notify parents of children in a Title III LEP program if the program has failed to help their child make progress on annual tests. This notice is to be provided within 30 days after this failure occurs.

For more information about *No Child Left Behind* visit the following web sites:

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/esea/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Education’s *No Child Left Behind* web site at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

Call Parents Plus toll free at 877 384-1769 or visit our web site at <http://www.parentspluswi.org/>