

IV. Providing Meaningful Access to ALL Curricular and Extracurricular Programs

6 Components for Inclusion and Access to a Rigorous Curriculum

1. Meaningful access to the core curriculum (e.g. reading/ language arts, math, science, and social studies) is a key component in ensuring that ELs acquire the tools to succeed in general education classrooms within a reasonable length of time.¹
2. One measure of whether ELs are able to attain equal participation in the standard instructional program within a reasonable length of time is whether a beginner EL will be able to earn a regular high school diploma in four years. ELs in high school, like their never-EL peers, should also have the opportunity to be competitive in meeting college entrance requirements.²
3. When adapting instruction in the core curriculum, LEAs should provide EL services (e.g., bilingual, English as a Second Language [ESL], or other program of instruction) that are age appropriate and of equal rigor as non-EL instruction. Placing ELs in age-appropriate grade levels will provide meaningful access to programs designed to help ELs meet grade-level standards.³
4. ELs are a heterogeneous group, diverse in ethnic and language backgrounds, socioeconomic status, education levels, and levels of English language proficiency (ELP). In order to effectively educate ELs, teachers must assess each student's academic and language-development needs and tailor their instruction accordingly. Teachers also need to closely monitor student progress.⁴
5. In addition to offering equal access to the core curriculum, LEAs have an obligation to provide ELs with equal opportunities to participate meaningfully in "all programs and activities . . . whether curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular." (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, and U.S. Department of Justice, January 2015.)⁵
6. LEAs must also provide ELs with equal access to Advanced Placement (AP), honors, and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, and gifted and talented education (GATE) programs.⁶

¹ U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition. (2017). English Learner Tool Kit (2nd Rev. ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*