

POLICY RELATING TO EDUCATION

LIMITED ENGLISH LEARNERS

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71A, as amended by Chapter 386 of the Acts of 2002, all English Learners (i.e. limited English proficient) in the Wachusett Regional School District are to be instructed through the use of sheltered English immersion, unless the parent or emancipated student requests placement of the student in a regular classroom*. Kindergarten students, however, may be placed in a sheltered English immersion classroom or in a regular classroom with assistance in English language acquisition. English learners who wish to receive some other type of language support may do so upon approval of a District waiver.

For students under age 10, a parent may request a waiver if:

- (a) the student has been placed in an English language classroom for at least 30 calendar days before the parent or guardian applies for the waiver; and
- (b) the District provides documentation in no less than 250 words that the student's special and individual physical or psychological needs, separate from lack of English proficiency, makes an alternative course of educational study better suited to the student's overall educational development and rapid acquisition of English, such documentation shall be included in the student's permanent school record.

For students age 10 and older, a parent or emancipated student may request a waiver when it is the informed belief of the principal and educational staff that an alternate course of educational study would be better suited to the student's overall educational progress and rapid acquisition of English.

The Superintendent shall establish a Waiver Request Team to review all waiver requests. The Team shall represent school and District personnel and will make recommendations to the principal.

The decision to approve a waiver shall be made by the principal.

A parent or emancipated student may appeal any decision to the Superintendent, whose decision will be final.

POLICY RELATING TO EDUCATION

LIMITED ENGLISH LEARNERS (continued)

*Under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71A, sheltered English immersion is defined as “an English acquisition process for young children in which nearly all classroom instruction is in English, but with the curriculum and presentation designed for children who are learning the language. Books and instructional materials are in English, and all reading, writing, and subject matter are taught in English.”

First Reading: 10/20/03

Second Reading: 10/27/03

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