

124D.59 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** For purposes of sections 124D.58 to 124D.65, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **English learner.** (a) "English learner" means a pupil in kindergarten through grade 12 who meets the following requirements:

(1) the pupil, as declared by a parent or guardian first learned a language other than English, comes from a home where the language usually spoken is other than English, or usually speaks a language other than English; and

(2) the pupil is determined by developmentally appropriate measures, which might include observations, teacher judgment, parent recommendations, or developmentally appropriate assessment instruments, to lack the necessary English skills to participate fully in classes taught in English.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a pupil in grades 4 through 12 who was enrolled in a Minnesota public school on the dates during the previous school year when a commissioner provided assessment that measures the pupil's emerging academic English was administered, shall not be counted as an English learner in calculating English learner pupil units under section 126C.05, subdivision 17, and shall not generate state English learner aid under section 124D.65, subdivision 5, unless the pupil scored below the state cutoff score or is otherwise counted as a nonproficient participant on an assessment measuring emerging academic English provided by the commissioner during the previous school year.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), a pupil in kindergarten through grade 12 shall not be counted as an English learner in calculating English learner pupil units under section 126C.05, subdivision 17, and shall not generate state English learner aid under section 124D.65, subdivision 5, if:

(1) the pupil is not enrolled during the current fiscal year in an educational program for English learners in accordance with sections 124D.58 to 124D.64; or

(2) the pupil has generated five or more years of average daily membership in Minnesota public schools since July 1, 1996.

Subd. 3. **Essential instructional personnel.** "Essential instructional personnel" means the following:

(1) a teacher licensed by the state Board of Teaching to teach bilingual education or English as a second language;

(2) any teacher as defined in section 122A.15 who holds a valid license from the state Board of Teaching, if the district assures the department that the teacher will obtain the preservice and in-service training the department considers necessary to enable the teacher to provide appropriate service to English learners.

Subd. 4. **English as a second language program.** "English as a second language program" means a program for the instruction of English learners in the following English language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Subd. 5. **Bilingual education program.** "Bilingual education program" means an educational program in which instruction is given in both English and the primary language of the English learner to the extent necessary to allow the pupil to progress effectively through the educational

system and to attain the basic skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the English language so that the pupil will be able to perform ordinary classwork successfully in English.

Subd. 6. **Primary language.** "Primary language" means a language other than English which is the language normally used by the child or the language which is spoken in the child's home environment.

Subd. 7. **Parent.** "Parent" includes a child's legal guardian.

Subd. 8. **Educational program for English learners.** "Educational program for English learners" means an English as a second language program, bilingual education program, or both an English as a second language and a bilingual education program.

History: 1980 c 609 art 3 s 15; 1981 c 358 art 3 s 18; 1982 c 548 art 3 s 22; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1998 c 397 art 2 s 130,131,164; art 11 s 3; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 48; 1Sp2003 c 9 art 1 s 13; 2008 c 277 art 1 s 10; 1Sp2011 c 11 art 1 s 13; 2012 c 239 art 1 s 33