

Immigrant Support – Kentucky Samples

Whether or not an Immigrant student is an English learner (E L or EL), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E S E A) Section 3115 (e) requires that Immigrant funding shall be used to pay for activities *that provide enhanced instructional opportunities for immigrant children and youth.*

Some examples of such activities include:

Example 1: Family literacy, parent, family and community outreach, and training activities.

Example 2: Recruitment of and support of personnel, including teacher and paraprofessionals.

Example 3: Tutorials, mentoring, and counseling.

Example 4: Identification, development and acquisition of educational materials and technology.

Example 5: Basic instructional services.

Example 6: Other instructional services designed to assist immigrant students to achieve in elementary and secondary schools in the United States.

Example 7: Activities, coordinated with community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, or other entities with expertise in working with immigrants, to assist parents and families of immigrant children and youth by offering comprehensive community services.

Following are some best practices of Immigrant Support from some of Kentucky's districts with higher immigrant populations. Note: The Kentucky Samples are not all inclusive.

Best Practice Example #1: Family Literacy, Parent, and Community Outreach and Trainings:

Some examples include items A through E:

- A. Adult English as a Second Language (E S L) Programs – often provide childcare and parenting support. Providing information on this program to parents and/or guardians as part of school's enrollment packets is an extremely helpful collaboration.
- B. Hispanic Family Liaison Programs – often provide translation support and resettlement issues, connecting immigrants to other community and state agencies.
- C. Family Resource Centers – work closely with immigrant families to help them acclimate to the new environment by providing information on local social agencies, doctors, dentists, free exams, etc. and often transportation. Some provide bilingual services to families which include parenting and cultural awareness training to new arrivals.

- D. Parent University – nights to provide sessions specifically for parents of immigrating EL’s.
- E. Orientation meetings – provide to newly arriving families (i.e. library, food service, dress code, school policies) with an interpreter, if needed.

Best Practice Example #2: Educating Personnel:

Some examples include items A through D:

- A. Program Services Plan (P S P) -- ensure that all classroom teachers receive and understand Immigrant EL’s’ P S P’s.
- B. Monthly staff meetings – invite all staff who are involved with immigrant students, providing updates and embedding mini-professional development.
- C. Job embedded professional development.
- D. District-wide professional development.

Best Practice Example #3: Tutorials, Mentoring and Counseling:

Some examples include items A through D:

- A. *Collaborative Services* (reference best practice idea #7) for obtaining additional community support.
- B. Extended School Services (E S S) provide special tutors and after-school training service for immigrant students, at no cost to parents, including bus transportation.
- C. Career Pathways – utilize and engage Spanish speaking students on the interest inventory on-line.
- D. Mentoring Programs – utilize upper-classmen as role models and mentors.

Best Practice Example #4: Identification, Development and Acquisition of Educational Materials and Technology:

Some examples include items A through F:

- A. Dictionaries – Bilingual or Picture -- Immigrant EL’s with a language other than English should have access to bilingual (or if more appropriate, picture) dictionaries.
- B. Computer based software – are best for students with other language backgrounds if interactive and scores are recorded to monitor progress.
- C. Web-based interactive sites (i.e., starfall.com, a4esl.org, .breakingnewsenglish.com , colorincolorado.org) are best for students with other language backgrounds if programming is interactive and scores are recorded to monitor progress.
- D. *Read & Write Gold* – assists students who need support in reading aloud, with writing and prepares them for technical assistance on state assessments.

- E. *Listen and Learn* – equipment purchased and used with headsets and a microphone for the interpretation of presentation in multilingual environments.
- F. *Open Book to Literacy* software.

Best Practice Example #5: Basic Instructional Services:

Some examples include items A through C:

- A. Make arrangements for Extended School Services (E S S).
- B. Cultural norms – provide mainstream teachers information on immigrants' culture.
- C. EL staff support – available for pull-in collaboration or pull-out assistance.

Best Practice Example #6: Other Instructional Services as a Means of Introduction to School System:

Some examples include items A through C:

- A. Extend personal invitations to parents/guardians for school events (i.e., Open House, parent/teacher conferences).
- B. Home visits – invite other school personnel (i.e., classroom teacher, guidance counselor, administrator) to go along, when students are home from school. Share findings with other school personnel (i.e., Internet, computer, safety, adequate furnishings).
- C. Newcomer Programs – districts with emerging Immigrant EL populations are establishing these programs to introduce these students to the United States system of education.

Best Practice Example #7: Collaborative Services with Other Agencies (i.e. communitybased, higher education):

Some examples include items A through L :

- A. Pre-School Programs – collaborate for enrollment of young children will assist with eliminating barriers earlier in child's educational process.
- B. Childcare – collaborate with middle/high school, local churches and agencies for providing childcare for school activities that would involve parent participation.
- C. Migrant Education – collaborate with Migrant Education staff on how to best meet the needs of students that qualify as migrants and immigrants.
- D. Faith-based Community – can often assist with necessary provisions (i.e., food, clothing, utility bills, school supplies).
- E. Red Cross – can often assist with necessary provisions (i.e., food, utility bills).
- F. Higher Education – may have students who can be assigned to tutor students, assist with summer programs or provide childcare for school functions.

- G. Summer Camps – collaborate with Migrant Education Programs, local colleges and universities to provide students with summer opportunities to continue studies during the summer months, when school is not in session.
- H. Dropout Prevention Program – aimed at “At Risk” populations, encouraging them to stay in school until graduation.
- I. Public Library Systems – encourages the provision of educational, community and civic services to immigrant students and their families.
- J. Refugee Ministries – assist with seeking professional help for counseling and family support.
- K. International Centers – can provide interpreters, translation of documents and cultural information on country of origins.
- L. Catholic Charities – can often assistance with many needs of immigrant students and their families.

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