

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools
School Year 2026-2027
Parental Notification Regarding English Language Education

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

In order to comply with state requirements, school districts must inform parents of students whose home language is other than English of the rights they may have regarding English language education (ELE). The district will screen your child to determine if your child is an English learner. If your child is found to be an English learner and eligible for placement in an ELE program, you will receive further notification with your child's English proficiency test results and program placement information.

If your child is determined to be an English learner, you have the right to:

- choose an ELE program among those offered by the district as described in state law and regulations;
- visit an ELE program in the district;
- attend available conferences or meetings to learn more about the ELE programs offered in the district;
- request a new ELE program in accordance with state law; and
- withdraw your child from an ELE program.

Available ELE programs include :

- **Sheltered English Immersion (SEI)** – an ELE program in which sheltered grade-level content instruction is used. Sheltered content instruction is content instruction that is modified so that an English learner can comprehend it and participate in the class at his or her level of English proficiency. All instruction and materials are in English.

All English Language Education (ELE) programs include **English as a Second Language (ESL)** instruction. ESL classes provide direct English language instruction that focuses on developing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in English.

English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)

Districts serving 100 or more English learners or in which English learners comprise at least 5% of the student population, whichever is less, are required to establish an English learner parent advisory council (ELPAC). Similarly, any school designated as underperforming or chronically underperforming and operating an ELE program is required to establish an ELPAC. Parents of English learners are encouraged to participate in such councils.

Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy

The Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who are proficient in English and one or more languages. The insignia is placed on the diploma and/or transcripts upon graduation to inform institutions of higher education and potential employers of the graduate's multilingual skills. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) offers the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy to multilingual graduates.

For more information about the topics discussed in this notice, please contact: The ELL Director at 508-560-5847 or lpalmer@mvyps.org.