



# Bilingual/ESL Services

## Tyler Independent School District

*Office of the Director*

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Date: October 1, 2008

To: Principals, Assistant Principals, and BE/ESL Lead Teachers

From: H.T. Sánchez, Ed.D., Director of Bilingual/ESL Services

Subject: TEA Bilingual/ESL Director's Final Interpretation of Chapter 89 Relative to Mainstreamed Students Coded as LEP and Served by Bilingual Education

### ***Legal Update:***

Part of my job requires that I stay up-to-date on BE/ESL program changes and legal interpretations. I attended a TETN this morning during which time the **TEA Bilingual/ESL Director**, Georgina Gonzalez, stated in absolute clarity that students who qualify for bilingual services **cannot** be “**mainstreamed**” or “**included**” or “**any other like or similar variation of the concept**” into any teacher’s room who is not bilingual certified or ESL certified. The TEA Bilingual/ESL Director stated that students can participate fully in core content (math, science, social studies, language Arts) non-bilingual/non-ESL classes when they have fully met all LEP-exit criteria.

### ***Non-Compliant Practice:***

In other words, the widespread practice (we were not only district in this category) of placing LEP bilingual students into non-bilingual or ESL certified teachers’ classrooms for any of the four core content disciplines (math, science, language arts, or social studies) is not permissible.

### ***TISD Implications:***

The only means for taking a LEP bilingual student out of a classroom taught by a certified bilingual teacher is for the LPAC to designate that the student participate in ESL time in one of the four core areas (math, science, social studies, language arts) with an ESL certified/content certified teacher.

We will review LPAC minutes and identify students who were recommended for “mainstreaming.” We will strike the “mainstreaming” recommendation from the LPAC meeting minutes. We will send a notice to campuses with all of these students’ names, so they can be placed in the bilingual classroom with a bilingual certified teacher.

If a campus has a certified ESL teacher at any grade level and would like to discuss the participation of any LEP bilingual student in said teacher’s class for ESL content-based instruction, we will need to hold a LPAC meeting to arrange for such.