

**280.4 Limited English proficiency — weighting.**

1. The medium of instruction in all secular subjects taught in both public and nonpublic schools shall be the English language, except when the use of a world language is deemed appropriate in the teaching of any subject or when the student is limited English proficient. When the student is limited English proficient, both public and nonpublic schools shall provide special instruction, which shall include but need not be limited to either instruction in English as a second language or transitional bilingual instruction until the student is fully English proficient or demonstrates a functional ability to speak, read, write, and understand the English language. As used in [this section](#), “*limited English proficient*” means a student’s language background is in a language other than English, and the student’s proficiency in English is such that the probability of the student’s academic success in an English-only classroom is below that of an academically successful peer with an English language background. “*Fully English proficient*” means a student who is able to read, understand, write, and speak the English language and to use English to ask questions, to understand teachers and reading materials, to test ideas, and to challenge what is being asked in the classroom.

2. The department of education shall adopt rules relating to the identification of limited English proficient students who require special instruction under [this section](#) and to application procedures for funds available under [this section](#).

3. *a.* In order to provide funds for the excess costs of instruction of limited English proficient students specified in paragraph “*b*” above the costs of instruction of pupils in a regular curriculum, students identified as limited English proficient shall be assigned an additional weighting of twenty-two hundredths, and that weighting shall be included in the weighted enrollment of the school district of residence for a period not exceeding five years. However, the school budget review committee may grant supplemental aid or a modified supplemental amount to a school district to continue funding a program for students after the expiration of the five-year period.

*b.* For students first determined to be limited English proficient for a budget year beginning on or after July 1, 2010, the additional weighting provided under paragraph “*a*” shall be included in the weighted enrollment of the school district of residence for a cumulative period of time not exceeding five years beginning with the budget year for which the student was first determined to be limited English proficient. The five years of eligibility for the additional weighting need not be consecutive and a student’s eligibility for the additional weighting is transferable to another district of residence.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §4254; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §280.5; C75, 77, 79, 81, §280.4; 82 Acts, ch 1260, §48]

87 Acts, ch 224, §52; 89 Acts, ch 135, §80; 91 Acts, ch 193, §2; 93 Acts, ch 127, §3; 2002 Acts, ch 1114, §1; 2006 Acts, ch 1182, §44, 54; 2013 Acts, ch 121, §41, 42; 2013 Acts, ch 140, §90; 2014 Acts, ch 1135, §24; 2018 Acts, ch 1083, §3

Referred to in §256F.3, 257.31, 282.18