

Diversity and Equity in Education

English as an Additional Language

Changing Terminology

Changing from ESL to EAL

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth and Manitoba Labour and immigration have recently adopted the term “English as an Additional Language (EAL)” to refer to English language programming for linguistically diverse learners in both K-12 and adult programs. This revised term better reflects the additive nature of learning another language.

The additive approach acknowledges and builds upon the strengths and contributions of Manitoba's intercultural, multilingual student population. EAL refers to students whose first or primary language(s) is other than English and who require specialized programming and/or additional services to develop English language proficiency and to realize their potential within Manitoba's school system.

Literacy, Academics and Language (LAL) Learners

This description refers to EAL learners in the Middle and Senior years who have had significant gaps in their schooling (i.e., these students have experienced three or more years of interrupted or no schooling, and therefore their school-based knowledge is well below an age-appropriate level). These students need to develop basic literacy skills and foundational academic concepts at the same time as they are learning the language of instruction. Students who are LAL learners will transition into the EAL stages of development as they gain literacy skills.