

FY 2007 QUESTION NUMBER: 13

QUESTION:

What is the status of the development of a standards-based ESOL curriculum? What is the timeline for the development of this curriculum? Can we partner with a university to revise the ESOL curriculum? What would it cost to add a full time ESOL curriculum coordinator and how would the timeline for curriculum development be affected by this addition? What will staff do to work with the advisory committee to clarify its issues?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 3–83

ANSWER:

The status of the standards-based ESOL curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school is as follows:

At the elementary level, pre-K and kindergarten have standards-based ESOL curriculum blueprints; grades 1 and 2 have full standards-based ESOL instructional guides; Grade 3 does not yet have standards-based ESOL curricular resources; and grades 4 and 5 have standards-based ESOL curriculum blueprints. All elementary ESOL instructional guides and resources are differentiated to address ESOL students at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of English language proficiency.

At the middle school level, there are three standards-based ESOL instructional guides needed to serve ESOL students in grades 6–8: one for beginning, one for intermediate, and one for advanced ESOL students, respectively known as ESOL levels 1, 2, and 3. Of these three instructional guides, only the advanced level (ESOL 3) has a standards-based curriculum blueprint. Standards-based curriculum for beginning and intermediate middle school ESOL students has not yet been developed.

At the high school level, there are five standards-based ESOL instructional guides needed to serve ESOL students in grades 9–12: two for beginning students (ESOL 1 and 2), two for intermediate students (ESOL 3 and 4), and one for advanced ESOL students (ESOL 5). Of these five instructional guides, only the advanced level (ESOL 5) has a standards-based curriculum blueprint. Standards-based curriculum for beginning and intermediate high school ESOL students has not yet been developed.

A process for completing ESOL curriculum guides and training already exists. Current staffing includes an ESOL curriculum supervisor who serves as curriculum coordinator and leads a team of five ESOL curriculum specialists: one specialist for students with interrupted/limited formal education, two elementary specialists, one middle school specialist, and one high school specialist. The cost of a coordinator would be \$104,104 including employee benefits. An additional coordinator will not accelerate the timeline that exists for the completion of the ESOL standards-based curriculum as part of the FY 2004–FY 2010 Curriculum Revision Delivery Plan.

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The Division of ESOL/Bilingual Programs continues collaborative partnerships with the University of Maryland at College Park and the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC) to assist in our efforts to write standards-based ESOL curriculum. In fact, UMBC staff has served as curriculum advisors in the development of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) standards-based ESOL curriculum for grades 1 and 2.

The supervisor of ESOL instruction will work with the director of ESOL/Bilingual Programs to receive input from the ESOL/Bilingual Advisory Committee (EBAC) in writing the ESOL standards-based curriculum at all grade and proficiency levels. Future meetings of the EBAC will be the venue for this ongoing collaboration. Additional meetings will be scheduled if needed.