

2021

Evaluation of the

2019-2020

Core Instructional Program

Bessemer City Schools implements and utilizes the ESL program of techniques, methodology, and special curriculum designed to teach ELs explicitly about the English language. This includes the academic vocabulary that is needed to access content instruction, and to develop English Language proficiency in all four language domains (speaking, listening, reading and writing). In the ESL program conversational English, grammar, reading, listening comprehension, writing and vocabulary are explicitly taught. Sheltered instruction is utilized as an instructional approach to make academic instruction in English understandable to all EL students. Teachers utilize physical activities, visual aids, and the environment to teach vocabulary for content development in core content subjects. Teachers utilize strategies from ARI and AMSTI to teach the core curricular and to provide each child with access to the core general education curriculum and standards. Teachers also differentiate content, instruction and expectations according to their English proficiency level. WIDA provides standards and expectations for EL students so they are accommodated according to their level of language proficiency. EL students have an Individualized English Language Plan, (IELP) giving teachers the knowledge of language proficiency along with accommodations needed to build a solid educational plan. The EL committee can also decide to use limited “pull out” intervention strategies but the “push in” model is most often used to address language development through content instruction. EL staff work to support the general education teachers in a knowledge and skills needed to address the diverse learning needs of English Learners. The EL Regional Coach has provided current evidenced based professional development training for EL and general education staff. Multiple opportunities are afforded to all staff in acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to teach English Learners. The instructional staff in all Bessemer City Schools are afforded the opportunity to attend and to participate in Regional EL-ARI sponsored workshops that are offered throughout the state in various locations. These workshops will provide an opportunity for staff to gain related knowledge and skills to ensure students’ academic achievement for grade level promotion and graduation. The evaluation of the EL program has established that academic progress is being made pertaining to the skillful use of the core

program components. Continued professional development is indicated as an area of need for district and school level staff. Regionally sponsored workshops, WIDA Standards review and grade and content strategic planning are promoted as avenues to address the needs of the English Learner through the core program.