Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child (insert child’s name) has been identified as an “English Language Learner” — a student in need of help to learn English — and the Bethlehem Central School District is recommending placement in a (insert name of program). We have determined (insert child’s name) eligibility, and placed (him or her) in such a program based on (insert reasons). Please review this letter, choose one of the options (see below) and sign and return the attached form within five school days.

(Child’s name) is performing at (insert status of child’s academic achievement). We have determined (his or her) level of English proficiency at (insert level) based on (insert how the District assessed that level).

We believe that placement in a (insert name of English instruction program) will help (insert child’s name) both to learn English and increase (his/her) level of academic performance. Attached is a series of questions and answers we hope will help you to better understand the program in which we have placed (insert child’s name) and the benefits of that program.

The District will hold regular meetings at least twice a year for parents/guardians of English learners and we encourage you to attend. At those meetings, we will provide you with information about New York State’s Learning Standards and the school’s expectations that will help you to better understand the goals of your child’s program, and suggest ways you can help (insert child’s name). In between meetings, we are always ready to listen and respond to any questions and recommendations you might have. District staff will also meet with you individually once a year, in addition to regular parent/teacher meetings, to discuss your child’s language development progress, English language proficiency assessment results, and language development needs in all content areas.

However, you should know that you have the right to:

1. Request that (insert child’s name) be immediately withdrawn from the instructional bilingual program that the District has offered your child and schedule a meeting with the building principal and the District supervisor of bilingual education. At a minimum, however, (insert child’s name) must participate in an English as a New Language program.
2. Request placement in another available program or method of instruction.
3. Request assistance in selecting from among the various programs and methods of instruction available.
4. Accept the District’s recommended placement.

Whatever your decision, we encourage you to help (insert child’s name) attain English proficiency and high academic achievement levels. Some ways in which you can do this include: (insert some examples).

If you have any questions about this notice or the attached information, please contact (insert the name of the building principal or the program’s coordinator). All of us in the District look forward to working with you to help (insert child’s name) improve (his or her) English and overall academic skills.

Sincerely,

Building Principal
Questions and Answers about Your Child’s English Instruction Educational Program

NOTE: In this exhibit, the District/school will have to fill in the answers to the questions below. Those answers will be specific to the individual child involved.

1. What methods of instruction will be used in my child’s program?

2. Does the District offer any other programs for English language learners?

3. How do these other programs differ from the one offered my child in terms of methods of instruction, content, instructional goals, and the use of English and a native language in instruction?

4. On what basis did the District select my child’s program as opposed to another one?

5. How will my child’s program specifically help (him or her) learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation?

6. My child is classified as a student with a disability. How will my child’s English learning program meet the objectives set out in (his or her) individualized education program (IEP)?

Adoption date: December 16, 2015
Reapproved date: March 20, 2019