**State Operated Programs ESL Mission**

* To provide ELL students with the social and academic language skills needed for school, career, and life.

Because the population of language minority students in SOP is significant, **all** SOPteachers are responsible for both language development and course or grade level content. This mission is addressed through specific teaching by ESL teachers, literacy coaches, reading teachers, Special Education teachers, and classroom/core content teachers.

**Definition of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Student**

According to the federal definition as described in Public Law 107-110, the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), also known as the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (*NCLB*)*, an LEP student in the Commonwealth of Virginia is classified as:

**A student**

1. who is aged 3 through 21;
2. who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;
3. i) who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English; and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant;

**OR**

ii)(I) who is a Native American or Alaska Native, or a native

resident of outlying areas; and

(II) who comes from an environment where a language other

than English has had a significant impact on the individual’s

level of English language proficiency;

**OR**

iii) who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant;

**AND**

1. whose difficulties speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual-

i) the ability to meet the State’s proficient level of achievement on the State assessments described in section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA;

ii) the ability to achieve successfully in the classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or

iii) the opportunity to participate fully in society.

[Title IX, Part A, Sec. 901, (25)]

**Definition of Immigrant Student**

Eligible “immigrant children and youth” include those individuals who are aged 3 through 21, who were not born in the United States and who have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more states for more than three full academic years. Report the total of immigrant students in the division.

**Definition of Refugee Students**

The refugee student is an individual who is outside his/her country and is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of a well-founded fear that she/he will be persecuted because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. This does not include persons displaced by natural disasters or persons who, although displaced, have not crossed an international border or persons commonly known as “economic migrants,” whose primarily reason for flight has been a desire for personal betterment rather than persecution.