

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 8, 1996

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 96-14

Reason for this Transmittal

- [] State Law Change
 [] Federal Law or Regulation Change
 [] Court Order
 [X] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
 [] Initiated by CDSS

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 COUNTY GAIN COORDINATORS
 COUNTY CAL-LEARN COORDINATORS
 CAL-LEARN CASE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTORS

SUBJECT: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS FOR CAL-LEARN

REFERENCE: Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 42-763.71

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on the California Department of Social Services' policy regarding Cal-Learn teen parents enrolling in English as a Second Language (ESL) programs to meet Cal-Learn participation requirements.

Counties have reported that some teen parents with severely limited English language skills are not able to enroll and progress in bilingual high school or General Education Development (GED) programs. Because of this limitation counties have asked if enrollment in a full-time ESL program would meet Cal-Learn participation requirements.

Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 42-763.71 requires teen parents to enroll and attend full-time in a school program that leads to a high school diploma or its equivalent. This section includes, but does not limit, preparation classes for the GED examination and the California high school certificate of proficiency examination as appropriate programs for Cal-Learn teens. A teen parent who is assessed to be extremely limited English proficient who cannot participate in a bilingual learning program can meet Cal-Learn participation requirements by attending a full-time ESL program as a prerequisite to high school or GED classes.

A primary goal of the Cal-Learn program is for the teen parent to earn a high school diploma or an equivalent degree. A teen should be enrolled in a full-time ESL program only when it

has been determined that the teen's English language proficiency would prohibit the teen from attending and/or progressing in available educational programs more directly related to obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your county Cal-Learn analyst at (916) 654-1424.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division