

**256J.531 BASIC EDUCATION; ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.**

Subdivision 1. **Approval of adult basic education.** With the exception of classes related to obtaining a general educational development credential (GED), a participant must have reading or mathematics proficiency below a ninth grade level in order for adult basic education classes to be an approved work activity. The employment plan must also specify that the participant fulfill no more than one-half of the participation requirements in section 256J.55, subdivision 1, through attending adult basic education or general educational development classes.

Subd. 2. **Approval of English as a second language.** In order for English as a second language (ESL) classes to be an approved work activity in an employment plan, a participant must be below a spoken language proficiency level of SPL6 or its equivalent, as measured by a nationally recognized test. In approving ESL as a work activity, the job counselor must give preference to enrollment in a functional work literacy program, if one is available, over a regular ESL program. A participant may not be approved for more than a combined total of 24 months of ESL classes while participating in the diversionary work program and the employment and training services component of MFIP. The employment plan must also specify that the participant fulfill no more than one-half of the participation requirements in section 256J.55, subdivision 1, through attending ESL classes. For participants enrolled in functional work literacy classes, no more than two-thirds of the participation requirements in section 256J.55, subdivision 1, may be met through attending functional work literacy classes.

**History:** *1Sp2003 c 14 art 1 s 82*