

## What is an English Learner (EL)?

An English Learner (EL) is a student who is learning to speak, read, write, and understand academic English.

ELs can be in grades Kindergarten through 12th, can speak and/or understand one or more languages other than English, and require specialized programming and supports to access their classroom content.

## How are ELs identified?

Parents/Guardians fill out a [Home Language Survey](#) upon enrollment of their child. If that survey indicates a language other than English, the student may be administered the [English Language Proficiency Screener \(ELPS\)](#) to assess their English proficiency.

If the student scores other than proficient, they are then identified as an EL and able to receive specific supports as described in the [EL Accommodations Checklist](#) in their classrooms and on their assessments.

A student remains EL until they score proficient on the annual [English Language Proficiency Test \(ELPT\)](#).

Parents will be notified upon initial identification of their child's EL status and annually thereafter.

If at any time, a parent does not want their child to receive supplemental EL services, that parent may contact the school and choose to "opt-out." However, the student will remain an EL until they score proficient on ELPT, will continue to receive in class supports, and will take ELPT annually.

## What kind of programming and supports will my child receive?

All schools must provide identified ELs with a research based EL program such as those recommended in the [EL Programming One-Pager](#). EL services and supports might be provided in their content classrooms and as a separate, specialized program. Parents should receive a letter annually describing their child's English language proficiency levels and the EL program(s) being offered. EL supports include extended time, use of a bilingual dictionary/electronic translator, and modified assignments/assessments. These supports are selected based on your child's EL levels, language needs, and grade level.

Who do I contact with questions about my child's EL status or supports?

Reach out to the school system's EL supervisor/coordinator for additional information. If you are not sure who that is or are worried that your child's language needs are not being met, contact the school system, or email LDOE at [LDOE.federalsupport@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.federalsupport@la.gov).

## Resources

[LDOE EL Library](#)

[Parent Guide to ELPT](#)

[Louisiana Back to School Guide for Parents of English Learners](#)

[Family Support Toolbox Library](#)