

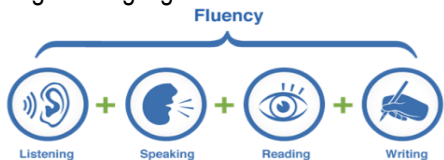


### What resources are available for ELs?

- Tutoring funds are available for ELs to participate in before, after and/or Saturday school for supplemental tutoring in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.
- K-12 supplemental software programs that explicitly teach oral language acquisition and foundational literacy skills for ESOL level 1 students are used in your child's classroom.
- Academic cultural fieldtrips are provided for immigrant students.

### When will my child exit the English for Speakers of Other Language program (ESOL)?

- Every year, your child will take ACCESS for ELs 2.0, an English language proficiency test, that includes all language skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). Your child will be exited from the ESOL program if he/she meets criteria in both ACCESS for ELs 2.0 and Florida State Standards English Language Arts assessment.



- Your child's progress in English will continue to be monitored for the next two academic years after he/she has exited the ESOL program.

### What type of support is there for English Learners' parents?

- Principals and Assistant Principals manage all aspects of the school. You can talk to the principal, assistant principal or counselors about any issue you cannot resolve with your child's teacher.
- Visit The Parent Academy at [parentacademymiami.com](http://parentacademymiami.com) for the Bilingual Parent Outreach Program (BPOP) and other resources.

*For more specific questions or information, contact your child's school.*

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# Parent Guide

*English Learners' (ELs)  
Pathways to Education in M-DCPS*



Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
Division of Academics  
Department of Bilingual Education &  
World Languages



Dear parent of an English Learner (EL),  
This guide gives you important information on how to help your child succeed academically. It will help you talk with personnel at your child's school, ask the right questions, and support your child on their educational journey as an English Learner.

### **How is my child identified as an English Learner?**

- When you register your child in school for the first time in the state of Florida, you will be asked to fill out a Home Language Survey.
- If a language other than English is spoken at home, your child will be tested to assess his/her language proficiency in English.
- If the test results show that your child is not proficient in English, he/she will be classified as an English Learner and will be scheduled into English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes.

### **Who teaches my child?**

- Your child is taught by Florida certified teachers. English proficiency is taught by ESOL certified or endorsed teachers.

### **What type of support is there for my child while he/she learns English?**

- Your child will receive appropriate support based on test results. Test results are used to plan instruction, assessments, and evaluations. The results are also used to determine whether students are ready to be exited from the program.
- Your child will receive instruction to develop academic English language skills that allow your child to understand what they are taught in class.
- There are many digital tools to supplement instruction during and after school hours. The digital tools are accessed through the student portal.
- Additionally, your child is entitled to testing accommodations including extended time to complete exams as well as the use of an English/Heritage language dictionary.

### **How will I know about my child's progress in English as well as in other subjects?**

- Schools are required to provide parents of English Learners with an annual update of their children's English language development.
- Schools are required to maintain parents informed about their child's progress via interim progress reports, report cards, and parent conferences.
- Your child's grades can be accessed through the electronic gradebook in the parent portal or the M-DCPS mobile application.

### **Do ELs receive any support in their heritage language?**

- ELs receive Home Language Arts (HLA) in Spanish or Haitian-Creole in grades K-5, for 150 minutes weekly.
- Support is also provided in the Curriculum Content in the Home Language for ESOL Level 1 and 2 students with less than two years in the ESOL program in Math, Science and/or Social Studies in Spanish or Haitian-Creole.

### **Is my child eligible to be enrolled in special programs at the school?**

- English Learners have the right to participate in all programs. This includes advanced courses (e.g. Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate), talented and gifted programs. If a child has special learning needs, Special Education programs are also available.
- Parents have the right to refuse to have their child enrolled in an ESOL program, but not the right to refuse classification of EL status.

### **How are EL students graded?**

- ELs will follow the same grading codes as non-ELs. ESOL Level 1 students in grades K-5 with more than two years in the ESOL program will receive both an ESOL and Reading/Language Arts grade. The ESOL grade should reflect progress in English language development, i.e., vocabulary, listening, and speaking. The Language Arts/Reading grade should reflect the student's academic progress based on the standards for the grade level/course in which the student is enrolled.
- ELs receive Comment No. 01 on the report cards indicating that they are "Receiving bilingual instruction in this subject" and Comment No. 05 indicating that they are "Receiving instruction in English using ESOL strategies."

- Grades earned by students reflect instruction provided in such a way that the students' lack of command of the English language does not affect academic progress.

### **How are ELs promoted to the next grade level?**

- Promotion for ELs with less than two years in the ESOL program is based on the student's performance in the student's home language.
- Promotion of ELs with more than two years in an ESOL program must meet grade level performance.

### **What state assessments are ELs required to take?**

- In Florida, each student must participate in statewide standardized assessments (Florida State Standards Assessment) at designated grade levels and for designated courses.
- ELs also must take the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Learners (ACCESS 2.0 for ELs). This is an annual test measuring English language proficiency that is administered to all Kindergarten through 12th grade EL students.
- At the end of each school year, ACCESS 2.0 results are used to maintain your child within their ESOL level, move them to a higher ESOL level, or exit them from the program.

