

Frequently Asked Questions

How does a student qualify for ELD services?

As part of kindergarten enrollment, parents/guardians fill out the Home Language Survey. If a language besides English is indicated on the form, the ELD teacher will then give the parents a call to find out more. After doing the Home Language Interview, the ELD teacher may decide that a language screener is necessary based on how much of the 2nd language is used in the home. If the student receives a perfect score on the screener, there will be no further action. If the screener indicates a need in listening or speaking (the first two areas of language acquisition), the student will be placed in the ELD program and an ELL plan will be created.

What is my student missing if they are working with the ELD teacher?

The ELD teacher, the classroom teacher, and the principal work closely together to make sure there is a minimum impact on classroom instruction. If the student happens to miss something the teacher deems important, the classroom teacher finds time for the student to catch up. In most cases, the time the students are gone is minimal, and the language instruction that is being taught helps students show significant growth in their regular classroom.

Why should my student work with an ELD teacher if they are performing at or above grade level in their regular classroom?

ELD instruction is NOT a remedial program. ELD instruction is designed specifically for English language learners to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. It is instruction that focuses specifically on helping English learners and it acts as an enrichment to their regular, rigorous classroom learning.

Serving this special population is a federal law that ensures that ALL “EL students can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs and services.” For more information, click on these links:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-el-201501.pdf>

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/sites/default/files/dcl-factsheet-el-students-201501.pdf>

How will students be tested in this program, and when will they no longer participate?

In January, all students, who participate in ELD services will be tested on ACCESS. This assessment measures a student’s growth in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. If a student is found to be proficient in these 4 areas, their classroom teacher, the parent, and the ELD teacher will collaborate to decide the best course of action for the student. In most cases, the student would then move to “monitor” status. This means that they will remain in their regular classroom for the following academic year, and the ELD teacher will work closely with the classroom teacher and parents to monitor the student’s progress and success. The student will then receive whatever support is deemed necessary at this point. Most students are on “monitor” for 2 years, and then are “exited” from ELL designation.