

English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA)

Frequently Asked Questions



COLORADO
Department of Education

ELPA Programming Questions

What is the definition of “English language learner” under ELPA?

The state definition of “English language learner” is derived from the Colorado Revised Statutes under the English Language Proficiency Act 22-24-103 (4) and is defined as “a student who is linguistically diverse and who is identified [using the state-approved English language proficiency assessment] as having a level of English language proficiency that requires language support to achieve standards in grade-level content in English.” English language learners (ELLs), or English learners (ELs), in English Language Development (ELD) programs who are identified as Non-English Proficient (NEP), Limited English Proficient (LEP), and Fluent English Proficient (FEP) Monitor Year 1 (M1) and Monitor Year 2 (M2) are eligible to receive ELPA funding for up to five budget years.

Which students need to be served with ELPA funds?

All K-12 students identified as ELs, based on the state approved assessments, and enrolled in evidence-based ELD programs generate ELPA funding for up to five budget years. Years in program are not required to be consecutive, regardless of whether the student transfers to another district or leaves the state. For both the ELPA and Support Programs, a major portion of the annual allocation should be used to provide services to NEP and LEP students. The smaller, remaining portion should be used to provide services to ELs reclassified as FEP M1 and M2.

Are districts and charter schools required to add more professional development to current ELD programs based on the ELPA Professional Development and Support Program?

No. The ELPA Professional Development and Support Program is funded to offset the annual costs of reporting the number of ELs who exit ELD programs, provide effective professional development activities related to teaching ELs for all educators who work with ELs, and/or expand ELD programs in order to assist ELs to achieve greater academic content proficiency. ELPA Support Program funds may be used to meet any of the above specifications, and activities are left to the discretion of the district in collaboration with its schools and charter schools.

Where can I learn more about the programs funded under ELPA?

Descriptions of and detailed information about the ELPA and Support programs are available at:
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/elpa-overview.

What are allowable activities under the three ELPA programs?

Explanation and examples of allowable activities under each program, including the Excellence Award, is available at:
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/elpa-guidance.

Will the ELPA Support Program and Excellence Award be funded at the same level in future years?

The ELPA Support Program and Excellence Award funds are subject to annual appropriation by the Colorado legislature. If a district or charter school is planning to use ELPA Support Program funds to hire FTE, CDE encourages a contract stating that the position is grant funded and may not be renewed the following year.

ELPA Excellence Award

Who are the ELPA Excellence Award recipients?

Information regarding the ELPA Excellence Award, including past winners, is available at:
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/elpaexcellenceaward.



How were award recipients selected?

The following criteria will be used by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to identify the local education providers and charter schools with evidence-based English Language Development (ELD) Programs that achieve the highest English language and academic growth among ELs in an ELD Program and that achieve the highest academic achievement for ELs who transition out of an ELD Program:

- Top 25% in growth percentiles on Colorado's ELD assessment for ELs in program;
- Top 25% in growth percentiles on Colorado's academic content assessment on reading and writing/English language arts, and math for ELs in program; and
- Top 25% in percentages of proficient and advanced on the Colorado content assessment on reading and writing/English language arts and math (and when available science and social studies) for ELs that have transitioned out of an ELD Program.

Eligible local education providers were identified using Colorado's annual language and academic assessments, including both growth and achievement results. The following three criteria were considered and weighted equally: language growth, academic growth, and academic achievement.

Beginning in 2018-2019, identification as an ELPA Excellence Awardee will require performance in the top 25 percent on all three indicators.

What do ELPA Excellence Award grantees need to submit to CDE for reporting?

ELPA requires CDE to identify and disseminate the practices that have contributed to the success of the Excellence Awardees. In order for CDE to meet its statutory requirements and disseminate best practices, it is necessary to gather information from each awardee about their ELD program, including successful components that have contributed to the high performance of their English learners.

Each LEA and charter school that receives an ELPA Excellence Award must submit to CDE a report of the current English language development program containing the following information:

- A data analysis and summary of the local education provider's or charter school's evidence-based English language proficiency program that includes:
 - A description of the instructional program that serves ELs;
 - A summary of instructional practices utilized with ELs, to include how these services provide both access to grade level standards and develop English language proficiency;
 - A description of professional learning opportunities to support instruction for English learners;
 - A description of how data analysis was conducted as a part of the evaluation process for the program(s) described above, as well as a summary of the data analysis findings [Note: please do not include any Personally Identifiable Information or data. All data shared with CDE must meet the minimum number requirements for public sharing of data (see Data Privacy Section below)];
 - A summary of community supports and family partnerships that help meet the needs of ELs;
 - A summary of post-secondary practices if relevant; and
 - A description of any other effective program elements.

Data Questions

How does a district know how much money to distribute to charter schools?

ELPA requires districts to distribute to each charter school 100% of both the ELPA and Support Program amounts the district receives based on the number of eligible English learners (ELs) enrolled in each charter school (22-24-108 (II) (B) (b)). Starting with the 2014-15 school year, the ELPA calculations are based on the ELs reported to CDE in the prior year's Student October Count.



The ELPA Report on the Data Pipeline includes the following information: district code, school code and name, student number, grade level, language background code and name, ESL/Bilingual, language proficiency (NEP, LEP, FEP M1, FEP M2), and number of years in the ELPA program. To access the ELPA Report, go to: Data Pipeline - Cognos Reports - Student October Count - ELPA Report –Updated, and select the year you wish to view. Because ELPA allocations are now based on the Student October counts from the previous year, the 16-17 report informs the 17-18 funding. You will need the OCT LEAUSER or LEAAPPROVE role assigned to your account. In order to view the district totals and filter by any category, the reports are best viewed as Microsoft Excel files downloaded to your computer.

Which FEP students are funded by ELPA?

FEP Monitor 1 and Monitor 2 students receive ELPA funds. **FEP Exited 1 and Exited 2** students do not receive ELPA funds.

How are ELPA funds calculated? Which students draw funds to districts?

Students must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for ELPA funding:

- Must be in public school grades K-12
- Must be identified as:
 - NEP, LEP, FEP M1, or FEP M2
- Must have less than 5 years of prior 22-24-104 and 22-104-108 ELPA funding
- Must not have any of the following Public School Funding Codes:
 - 86 (Not Eligible, Nonspecific)
 - 87 (Not Eligible, Tuition)
 - 89 (Not Eligible, CPP Allotment Met)
 - 96 (Not Eligible, On-Line Nonspecific)

Fiscal Questions

When do ELPA funds need to be spent? Can a district or charter school carryover funds?

Districts and charter schools should try to expend the ELPA funds by the end of the year. Districts are not required to return ELPA funds unexpended as of June 30th, but should expend them in a timely manner.

What happens to the ELPA funds if a charter school or student transfers to another district?

Districts may enter into agreements with other districts to send ELPA funds generated by charter schools that change districts; however, this policy is not set forth in statute and is not regulated by CDE.

Do half-day kindergarten students draw the same amount of funding as full-day students?

Yes.

When is ELPA funding allocated each year?

Current school year ELPA is calculated based on the previous year Student October Count. The initial 90% distribution will be mailed to districts in September. The remaining 10% will be distributed the following January.

What grant codes are associated with ELPA?

State ELPA: Excellence Award	3138
State ELPA: Professional Development and Student Support	3139
State ELPA Program	3140

What do districts need to submit to CDE for ELPA reporting?

Districts do not need to submit a budget or budget narrative to CDE before spending ELPA funds. ELPA expenses, as all per pupil revenue (PPR) and state categorical programs, are reported through Data Pipeline December Financial Submission.



How are the per pupil allocations calculated for each category (NEP, LEP, FEP M1, FEP M2)?

On August 15, 2018, the Colorado State Board of Education approved amendments to the ELPA rules and rule modifications regarding the calculations that determine the distribution of ELPA Program funds. The purpose of the approved amendments are to incorporate legislative changes made to the statute during the 2018 Colorado legislative session.

Previously, seventy-five percent of the ELPA Program funds were distributed based on the number of eligible NEP and LEP students and twenty-five percent of the funds were distributed based on the number of eligible FEP Monitor 1 and FEP Monitor 2 students. The new rules allow for the distribution to be made proportional to the number of eligible ELs in each group. As such, a portion of the funds shall be distributed based on the percentage of eligible NEP and LEP students, and a portion of the funds shall be distributed based on the percentage of eligible FEP Monitor 1 and FEP Monitor 2 students.

Per ELPA statute, ELPA PD and Support funds are still distributed using the 75/25 model. Therefore, seventy-five percent of funds are distributed based on the number of eligible NEP and LEP students and twenty-five percent of the funds are distributed based on the number of eligible FEP Monitor 1 and FEP Monitor 2 students.

Calculations for Proportional ELPA Program Distribution (Example demonstrates 2018-19 Allocation Numbers)

Calculate total students for both groups

$$(\text{NEP} + \text{LEP students}) + (\text{M1} + \text{M2 students}) = \text{TOTAL ELPA ELIGIBLE} = 66,307$$

Determine % of each group based on total

$$(\text{Total NEP} + \text{LEP}) / \text{Total ELPA Eligible} = \% \text{NEP} + \text{LEP} \quad 61,165 / 66,307 = 92.25\%$$

$$(\text{Total M1} / \text{M2}) / \text{Total ELPA Eligible} = \% \text{M1} + \text{M2} \quad 4,142 / 66,307 = 7.75\%$$

Determine total funds for each group by taking total funding by % calculated above

$$\text{Total ELPA Program Allocation} * (\% \text{NEP} + \text{LEP}) \quad \$21,608,211 * 92.25\% = \$19,932,529.38$$

$$\text{Total ELPA Program Allocation} * (\% \text{M1} + \text{M2}) \quad \$21,608,211 * 7.75\% = \$1,675,682$$

Finally, divide the amount allocated to each group by the above process and divide it by the number of students in each group.

$$\text{NEP} + \text{LEP Allocation} / (\# \text{NEP} + \text{LEP Students}) = \text{PPA} \quad \$19,932,529.38 / 61,165 = \$325.88 \text{ per student}$$

$$\text{M1} + \text{M2 Allocation} / (\# \text{M1} + \text{M2 Students}) = \text{PPA} \quad \$1,675,682 / 4,142 = \$325.88 \text{ per student}$$

Contact Information

Who can provide additional information about ELPA?

Program and Excellence Award: [Lindsay Swanton](mailto:Lindsay.Swanton_l@cde.state.co.us) at [Swanton_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Lindsay.Swanton_l@cde.state.co.us), (303) 866-6298

Data and Reporting: [Nazanin Mohajeri-Nelson](mailto:Nazanin.Mohajeri-Nelson_n@cde.state.co.us) at [Mohajeri-nelson_n@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Nazanin.Mohajeri-Nelson_n@cde.state.co.us), (303) 866-6205

Fiscal, including expense reports: [Marti Rodriguez](mailto:Marti.Rodriguez_m@cde.state.co.us) at [Rodriguez_m@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Marti.Rodriguez_m@cde.state.co.us), (303) 866-6769