

# Office Hour FAQ

## Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## November 16, 2023 Office Hour Topics:

### English Learner Professional Development Requirements

To support students in Colorado who are English language learners, the State Board of Education adopted new rules in June 2018 requiring educators with elementary, math, science social studies and English language arts (and any middle-level) endorsements to complete Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Education training or Professional Development (PD). Educators holding these endorsements on a professional license that expires on or after Sept. 1, 2025, must meet this requirement at the time of renewal.

Navigate the English Learner Educator Licensure Requirements to find more information about:

- 45 hours (Quality Standards & Elements)
- To view video to complete Educator Matrix

What is the English Learner PD requirement: Educators must demonstrate completion of training or professional development activities equivalent to 45 clock/contact hours or three semester hours in CLD Education. Educators with previous CLD training or past experience can count it toward meeting their: new English Learner Professional Development requirement *and* their 90 clock hours of professional development requirement for renewing their educator license.

For Questions about 45 Hour EL PD Requirements visit  
[Educator Talent Website](http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent/elpdeducators) (www.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent/elpdeducators)

Or send an email to

For district leaders with general questions about PD or districts interested in creating their own PD pathway: [Questions from District Leaders](mailto:educator_development@cde.state.co.us) (educator\_development@cde.state.co.us)

For individual teachers with questions about this requirement: [Questions from Teachers](mailto:CDElicensing@cde.state.co.us) (CDElicensing@cde.state.co.us)

### Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI)

With the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and with revisions to the state's Educational Accountability Act (HB 17-1355), Colorado is taking the opportunity to change the way school improvement (1003a through ESSA and the Transformation grant through HB 17-1355) funds are awarded to LEAs. Rather than multiple applications on separate timelines, CDE now streamlines school improvement opportunities into a single application and using a "needs-based approach" to award services and funding. Ultimately, the intent is to develop a robust process of matching schools' needs with rigorous, evidence-based strategies and adequate resources.



Additionally, awarded funds will enhance districts' and schools' ability to meet the ESSA and state requirements (e.g., stakeholder engagement, improvement plan, implementation of evidence-based interventions) in a way that directly benefits students.

Colorado is committed to aligning federal and state accountability to the degree possible. These grant funds are aimed at districts with schools that are designated as (1) Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CS) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TS), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TS) under ESSA, and (2) Improvement, Priority Improvement Turnaround or Watch through the state accountability system. Specific eligibility and prioritization requirements for each support is detailed in the Menu of Supports and the application.

For more information or to contact an EASI Coordinator, visit the [EASI Website](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication) (www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication)

### **EASI Application Routes & Services**

The application has been organized into four different routes: Exploration Supports, District Designed and Led, Offered Services, and Piloted Services. The routes have different criteria and ways of awarding funds geared to a specific intent. A summary of the routes and the individual services or opportunities can be found below. Additional details (e.g., eligibility criteria, prioritization guidelines, evaluation requirements, local commitments) for each program or opportunity are available below:

Four Different Routes:

1. Exploration Supports Route (more information below)
2. District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route
3. Offered Services Route
4. Other Services Route

**Exploration Supports Route:** LEA is interested in funds and/or services to explore a solution (e.g., external diagnostic review, planning, community engagement) for the identified school(s) or particular populations within an identified school. This is a planning phase with a small allocation for implementation activities. The exploration supports include:

- Exploration Supports
- Holistic Review Providers
- Language Learner Partnership
- Diagnostic Review for AECs and Online Schools
- District Strategic Planning

For more information about the routes and services, visit the [EASI Application Routes & Services](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplicationroutes) (www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplicationroutes)