

Background

The English Language Proficiency Act requires local education agencies to provide evidence-based English language proficiency programs for English learners to enable them to develop and acquire English language proficiency while achieving and maintaining grade-level performance in academic content areas.

Legislation passed in May 2014 revised the law to include three funding programs for districts with English learners, including:

- ELPA Program: Supports for evidence-based English language proficiency programs
- ELPA PD and Support Program: Professional development for educators working with English learners
- ELPA Excellence Award Program: To recognize LEAs and charter schools that achieve the highest English language and academic growth among English learners

ELPA Program

- Provides funding to administer and implement required evidence-based English language proficiency programs for all English learners
- Provides eligible K-12 English learners funding for up to a total of five budget years, including prior year funding

ELPA Professional Development and Student Support Program

The updated legislation provides additional funding to support the implementation of an evidence-based English language proficiency program for all eligible K-12 English learners by:

- Providing effective professional development related to teaching English learners for all educators who may work with English learners
- Expanding programs to assist English learners in achieving greater content proficiency
- Offsetting the cost of annually reporting the number of English learners that exit the English language proficiency program

ELPA Excellence Award Program

The ELPA Excellence Award program is designed to award grants to local education providers and charter schools with evidence-based English language proficiency programs that achieve the highest English language and academic growth among English learners and the highest academic achievement for English learners who transition out of the English language proficiency program. Award winning programs provide:

- A data analysis and summary of the English language proficiency program
- A report of the local education provider's or charter school's use of the grant money received

CDE will share information received through the data analysis and summary with local education providers and the public.

Why ELPA?

- One in eight students in Colorado is an English learner
- By law, English learners must be provided an English language proficiency program to learn English
- To provide professional development to enhance educators' effectiveness and meet legal requirement for English learners to learn English while accessing grade-level academics
- To ensure Colorado's English learners are postsecondary and workforce ready at graduation
- To recognize and provide a summary of effective English language proficiency programs

Where Can I Learn More?:

- www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/elpa
- www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/elau_pubsresources
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs