

English Learner Education (ELE): Glossary of Terms

English Learner Education

English Language Learner / English Learner

In English: English Language Learner (ELL) / English Learner (EL)

Students who are learning English and are not yet proficient. They can receive extra support at school to improve their English skills.

English Learner Education

In English: English Learner Education (ELE)

Teaching English to people who speak another language at home. It involves teaching methods, lessons, and tests to help English learners improve their English.

English as a Second Language

In English: English as a Second Language (ESL)

Classes designed for people who speak another language at home. These classes focus on developing speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in English.

English Learner Education Program:

In English: ELE Program

A set of organized English language and content instruction aimed at teaching English to people who speak another language at home. These programs can be found in schools and districts and include reading, writing, speaking, and listening practice.

English Proficiency

In English: English Proficiency

The ability to use the English language effectively and accurately in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Multilingual Learner

In English: Multilingual Learner (ML)

Someone who is learning in more than one language.

English Learner Education Program Placement Options That May Be Available

Sheltered English Immersion

In English: Sheltered English Immersion (SEI)

A program where the lessons are adjusted so that English learners can understand and take part in class at their current level of English. Everything is taught in English.

Dual Language Education or Two-Way Immersion

In English: Dual Language Education or Two-Way Immersion (TWI)

A program that helps students learn both English and another language. It may include students who speak English at home and students who speak a different language at home.

Transitional Bilingual Education

In English: Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE)

A program where students use their native language to help them learn English and other subjects. As they get better at English, they use their native language less and less.

Other Bilingual Program

In English: Other Bilingual Program

Your district may offer programs that are not considered SEI, Dual Language or TBE. These programs will still support your child in learning English.

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Other Terms

Assessment

In English: Assessment

Another word for testing. Terms you may hear in your school district that are related to the assessment include ACCESS and WIDA. ACCESS is an English language proficiency assessment, and WIDA is the organization that created ACCESS.

Individualized Education Program

In English: Individualized Education Program (IEP)

If a student has a disability, they may be eligible for Special Education Services. These services are described in a document called an Individualized Education Program. If an English Learner is eligible for Special Education, the school must provide both kinds of support.

English Learner Parent Advisory Council

In English: English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)

A group of parents with English Learner students that learns from one another while offering input into issues that affect English learners. ELPACs exist in school districts that have a certain percentage of English learners.



Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy

In English: Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy

An award given to students who can speak, read, and write well in two or more languages, including English. Students are eligible to earn this award when they graduate high school.

Notification

In English: Notification

A letter or message from the school to parents. It tells them important information about their child's education, such as changes in classes or programs.

Placement

In English: Placement

The specific English Learner program that your child participates in.

Typical ELE program placements are Sheltered English Immersion, Transitional Bilingual Education, Dual Language Education or Two-Way Immersion, and Other Bilingual Programs.

Learn more from your district's English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC), a group of families who meet together to talk about English Learner Education (ELE).