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 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).

dese fcsn.org masfec Massachusetts Statewide Family Engagement Center

This resource was developed for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by the Massachusetts Statewide Family Engagement Center, a program of the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Do you have questions? Contact your school:

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English Learners

ACCESS Test
In English: ACCESS Test

A test that measures how well a student can understand and use English. It is used to assess the progress of English learners and is part of understanding their language skills.

For more information on **assessment**, see page 2.

Culturally Respectful
In English: Culturally Respectful

Listening, learning, and working together in a way that makes everyone feel welcome, understood, and respected. Being culturally respectful means honoring and valuing the beliefs, traditions, languages, and backgrounds of all families.

English Learner with a Disability
In English: English Learner with a Disability (ELSWD)

A student who is both an English learner and is eligible for special education services.

Former English Learner
In English: Former English Learner

A student who was once learning English as a second language but has now reached a level of proficiency where they no longer need extra language support. These students are monitored for a few years to make sure they continue to succeed in English.

Monitor
In English: Monitor

A process where the school keeps checking in to make sure your child continues to do well in English after they no longer need language support. It helps make sure they are still learning and growing without needing extra help.

Opt Out
In English: Opt Out

The option for a parent or guardian to choose not to have their child participate in a specific program or assessment.

ELPACs

Advise
In English: Advise

To provide recommendations and feedback to schools. Families in ELPACs guide decisions about programs and services for English learners. This advice helps schools improve how they support students who are learning English.

School Committee
In English: School Committee

A group of elected community members who help make important decisions about how the local schools are run.

Understand more terms through the Guide for Families of Multilingual Learners: [website]

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