The Massachusetts Blueprint for English Learner Success

The *Massachusetts Blueprint for English Learner Success* that provides guidance to schools on how to support English Learners. It has four main ideas.

1 School Culture

Schools should believe in their students and work with families to support student success.



2 Access to Educators

Teachers should be effective and well-prepared. Teachers communicate with both students and their families in **culturally respectful** ways.



3 Opportunity and Support

Students have many different kinds of learning experiences, and help is available when they need support.



4 A Plan for Future Success

Teachers, schools, families work together to help students set goals for their future and achieve them.



Learn more about the Blueprint: https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/blueprint/

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:

English Proficiency Benchmarks

Your school uses English Proficiency Benchmarks to track your child's progress in learning English. These benchmarks are a set of skills that students are expected to develop to help them speak, read, and understand English.

How does your school measure your child's progress?

The ACCESS test is hosted once a year to set a goal for how much English a student should learn in the next year. Your school uses your child's ACCESS test results and the **English Proficiency Benchmarks** to track students' progress and make sure they get the support they need to succeed in learning English.

Your school may use these English Proficiency Benchmarks to:

- Find out where your child needs to improve.
- Set goals for your child to reach **English proficiency**.
- Observe and keep track of your child's progress in these areas.
- Get feedback from you.
- Review resources and services to support your child.

Your child is meeting the English proficiency benchmarks.

Your school will continue to observe and keep track of your child's progress. When they meet all of the benchmarks, your child may transition out of English Learner programs as a **Former English Learner**.

Your child is not meeting the English proficiency benchmarks.

In Massachusetts, "making progress" means a student is on track to become fluent in English within six years of starting school. Some students may take more time. Every student's path is different.

No matter where your child is with their English, your school will keep supporting them.

Learn more about English Proficiency Benchmarks:
https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/resources/benchmarks/default.html

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:

What to Expect When Your Child Becomes a Former English Learner

Schools are legally required to offer English Learner Education to any student who needs it. They must also test all English Learners every year until they pass specific benchmark tests. These tests may be known as "ACCESS" testing. Students may become Former English Learners because they pass the test.

Your child passes ACCESS testing and no longer needs English Learner Education programs.



The school continues to support your child for 4 years as a Former English Learner. This type of support is called "**monitoring**". Monitoring may include:

- Conversations with the family
- Observations in school
- Regular meetings with the family and the school's English Learner program teachers



You may contact your school, ask questions, and learn more about how to be involved in this process.

If your child needs more help learning English, the school will write to you to explain their concerns. Your child would then re-enter an English Learner Education program. You may communicate with the school to discuss these steps with your child's teachers.

Students become skilled at reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English.

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: