

School districts and charter schools provide instruction to Minnesota’s more than 76,000 students who are English learners. English Language Learner programs include bilingual programs and English-as-a-second-language (ESL) programs. Bilingual education programs provide curriculum instruction to students in both their native language and English. ESL programs teach students to read, write, listen, and speak in English.

English Learner Student Eligibility

Minnesota has provided funding for English Learner (EL) programs since 1980. An EL student is annually assessed and entrance to, and exit from, EL programs are governed by the assessment results. A school district may receive up to seven years of funding for each EL student. A student that meets the exit criteria is no longer eligible for EL programming. A student who does not exit EL programming after seven years continues to receive EL services until the student exits the program.

English Learner Revenue

There are two parts to the EL revenue programs:

- Basic EL revenue equals \$704 times the district’s count of eligible EL students (note that a district with at least one EL student is assigned a minimum EL count of 20); and
- EL concentration revenue equal to \$250 x the lesser of 1 or the ratio of the district’s percentage of EL students to 11.5 percent.

A district with more than 11.5 percent of its students eligible for EL revenue receives the maximum revenue amount of \$954 of revenue (\$704 of basic revenue and \$250 of concentration revenue) per EL student.

English Learner Expenditures

EL revenue must be spent in accordance with the district’s EL plan. The money may be spent on ESL or bilingual programs, ESL and bilingual personnel, and professional development opportunities for other staff. Some districts may be coding some EL expenditures into more general accounting codes so that a district’s total EL spending appears understated.

English Learner Statistics

School Year	EL Spending	EL Revenue	Difference	Difference/pupil
2020-2021	\$202,000,000	\$55,000,000	\$147,000,000	\$172
2019-2020	177,000,000	59,000,000	118,000,000	135
2018-2019	163,000,000	59,000,000	104,000,000	120
2017-2018	149,000,000	58,000,000	91,000,000	96