

**Subject** English Learner Program Aid

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## Overview

School districts and charter schools receive English Learner (EL) revenue to provide instruction to students with limited English skills. Programs may include bilingual programs or English-as-a-second-language (ESL) programs. Bilingual education programs provide curriculum instruction to students in their native language. ESL program students are taught to read, write, listen, and speak in English. The state has provided funding for EL programs since 1980. Originally, the funding was based on a percentage of qualifying staff salaries. In the late 1990s, the formula was converted to a per pupil allowance. In the early 2000s, the maximum number of years that a student could qualify for EL funding was reduced from seven to five years. This limitation was increased to six years for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 and restored to seven years for fiscal year 2017 and later.

There are two parts to the EL portion of basic skills revenue: a basic formula of \$704 per English Learner; and a concentration formula which adds up to \$250 per English Learner. A school district with at least one student eligible for EL services has a statutorily assigned minimum EL pupil count of 20. This bill increases EL revenue statewide from about \$59,000,000 to \$142,000,000 per year by doubling the basic EL allowance and quadrupling the EL concentration revenue allowance.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>School district EL revenue.</b> Increases the basic revenue portion of EL revenue by raising the basic EL allowance from \$704 to \$1,400 per English Language Learner. Raises the minimum English Language Learner count in any district with at least one English Language Learner from 20 to 25.
2	<b>English Learners; basic skills revenue.</b> Increases the maximum EL concentration allowance from \$250 to \$1,000. Leaves the concentration index unchanged (a district reaches the maximum concentration when at least 11.5 percent of its students are qualifying English Language Learners).

Section	Description
3	<b>Appropriation.</b> Appropriates an unspecified amount of additional general education aid for additional general education aid.



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