

English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA)

FY 2018-2019

C.R.S. 22-24-104

C.R.S. 22-24-108



COLORADO
Department of Education

English Language Proficiency Act

House Bill 14-1298, passed in May 2014, repeals and re-enacts with amendments the English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA). The 2018-2019 allocation is for two programs which provide funding for all local education providers with English learners: the English Language Proficiency Program and the Professional Development and Student Support Program.

English Language Proficiency Program (ELPA Program), 22-24-104, C.R.S. State Grant Code 3140:

The ELPA Program is a categorical program that supports the requirement to provide an evidence-based English language proficiency program for all English learners. The ELPA Program provides funding intended to offset the cost of educating English learners. This goal of the program is to increase the English language proficiency and academic performance of English learners. HB14-1298 provides **\$21,608,211** in funding for FY 2018-19 to local education providers, based on the identified English learners in evidence-based English Language Proficiency programs. Identified students may receive funding for up to a total of five budget years, including prior years of funding. Districts and the Charter School Institute must distribute 100% of the Support Program funds to those charter schools that identified and reported English learners in the Student October Count.

The Professional Development and Student Support Program (Support Program), 22-24-108, C.R.S. State Grant Code 3139:

HB14-1298 provides \$27,000,000 for the Support Program for FY 2017-18 to offset the cost of providing effective professional development for all educators who may work with English Learners and to offset the cost of assisting students who, at any time, have been identified as English Learners in achieving content proficiency. Identified students may receive funding for up to a total of five budget years, including prior years of funding. Districts and the Charter School Institute must distribute 100% of the Support Program funds to those charter schools that identified and reported English learners in the Student October Count.

Student Data and Funding:

After consultation with district program and fiscal contacts, CDE will use prior year October student counts to calculate both the ELPA and Support Program allocations beginning with the FY 2014-15 distributions. This change will expedite the distribution of funds and align student count years with other State program distributions. The initial 90% distribution is being mailed to districts in September. The remaining 10% will be released the following January.

The ELPA Program is a categorical program and is part of the required annual inflationary calculation for Amendment 23 purposes. The legislature sets the amount of funding available for each categorical program. The Support Program is subject to annual appropriations and has no state constitutional required increases.



Allowable Uses of Funds:

The ELPA funds are to be used to:

- Provide evidenced-based English language development programs designed to develop English learners' English language proficiency while enabling them to achieve and maintain grade level performance in academic content and
- Identify and assess English learners.

The Support Program funds are to be used to:

- Provide effective professional development activities related to teaching English learners and
- Expand programs to assist students who have at any time been identified as an English learners in achieving greater content proficiency.