

# Learning English in Washington Schools

Speaking More than One Language Helps Promote Academic Progress

Knowing and using English well is necessary for success in school. It is important that students who need additional help learning English get the assistance they need.

**219**  
Languages  
Spoken in  
Washington  
Schools

## Parents, Your Involvement Helps Your Children Succeed

Students with involved parents are more likely to get good grades, take more challenging classes, have better attendance, graduate, and go to community or technical college or university.

## Types of Assistance for Learning English

When possible, students learn language concepts and knowledge in their primary language while they learn English. Students build a strong academic foundation by learning in the language they know best.

When instruction is in English, teachers use strategies that support academic success while promoting students' English language development.

2014-15  
**77.9%**  
ELL\* students  
made progress  
toward  
English  
proficiency

\* English Language Learners



## School Role

### Identifies eligible students

During enrollment, parents complete a home language survey. If the student's primary language is not English, the child will take an English language proficiency assessment within 10 days of enrollment. The results of the assessment determine the student's placement in the program.

### Supports English Language Acquisition

School staff provides language support based on individual needs and language ability in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

### Helps students succeed in school

All teachers use instructional strategies to fully engage the student while he/she learns the English language.

### Determines ongoing eligibility

An annual assessment measures student growth in the English language. The results determine whether or not the student remains in the program.

### Continues to provide academic support

Students who reach proficiency and exit the program receive extra academic support for two more years if they need it.

### Engages families

Schools communicate important information and involve parents in program planning and evaluation.



## Parent Role

### Become familiar with the program

Learn about program services and activities.

### Get involved

During enrollment, provide information to the school about the languages that your family speaks. Participate in district and school meetings. Ask the district to provide interpreters at school meetings and to provide important information in a language and format you can understand.

### Stay connected

Communicate frequently with program staff about your student's academic progress and language proficiency.

### Communicate academic goals

Watch your student's progress reports closely. Contact your school if you have any concerns about how your child is doing in school.

### Give feedback

Share your ideas or recommendations to improve services for your student, family and the greater community.

To learn more about services in your school contact:

