

English Learners: How to Apply

SFUSD is committed to ensuring that English Learners acquire high levels of English and home language proficiency, academic achievement and skills that will lead to success in the 21st century. As such, we provide various educational programs and language pathways for students who are English Learners. This section provides a general overview of the enrollment process for English Learners. For a complete description, see the English Learner Program Guide available through the Educational Placement Center or www.sfusdmultilingualpathways.org.

Who is an English Learner?

Your child is classified as an English Learner (EL) if, when you filled out the “Home Language Survey” on the SFUSD Enrollment Application, you answered at least one of the following questions with a language other than English:

- What language did your child first learn when s/he began to talk?
- What language do you use most frequently to speak with your child?
- What language does your child use most frequently at home?

And if at grades Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and above, your child did not receive an overall score of “Initial Fluent English Proficient” on the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) or your child has not yet been reclassified as an English-proficient student by SFUSD.

If my child is an English Learner, how do I enroll them in school?

Students who speak a language other than English and list a Language Pathway as a school choice may be assessed for their current language skills to evaluate their proficiency in the language pathway before they can enroll in school. Parents/guardians should submit their child’s enrollment application early and meet with an EPC counselor to complete the necessary language assessments.

Where does my child take the assessment test?

All assessments will be conducted by the staff at the Educational Placement Center, Room 100, 555 Franklin Street or at a designated school site. Assessments will be scheduled and conducted prior to families receiving a school assignment.

What happens after the test?

Once the test is completed and scored, the parents/guardians meet with a counselor at the EPC to discuss test results, program options and support services. Parents will have the opportunity to change the school or program requests on their child’s application if they so choose and/or if their child is not eligible for a selected language pathway.

Special Education for English Learners

English learners with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are eligible to apply to all English Learner Pathways. Information on Special Education Services for English Learners with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) is available at www.sfusd.edu/sped, in the English Learner Program Guide, online at www.sfusdmultilingualpathways.org, and at the Educational Placement Center.



More details on eligible programs for English Learners and classification requirements can be found in the English Learner Program Guide, available at the Educational Placement Center and online at sfusdmultilingualpathways.org.

Language Pathways

Language Pathways provide all students, including English Learners, with culturally and linguistically relevant education to maximize access to quality education. Below are the language pathways for grades prekindergarten through 12 offered by SFUSD. Detailed information about all language programs are available at www.sfusdmultilingualpathways.org or in the English Learner Program Guide, available at the EPC in multiple languages.

Language Pathway	Students Served	Language Instruction	Schools by Language		
Dual Language Learner Prekindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English LearnersBilingual studentsEnglish-proficient students	70% of the time in Cantonese and 80% of the time in Spanish.	CANTONESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Las Americas EESNoriega EESStockton, Commodore EESTaylor, E.R. ES	
			SPANISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bryant ESChávez, César ESHarte, Bret ESHuerta, Dolores ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Las Americas EESMission Education CenterRevere, Paul K-8
K-5 Elementary Dual Language Immersion (DLI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English LearnersBilingual studentsEnglish-proficient students	Start with 80% instruction in pathway language in kindergarten and decrease to 50% by fifth grade	CANTONESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chinese Immersion School at De AvilaGarfield ESWest Portal ES	
			KOREAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lilienthal, Claire ES	
			MANDARIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ortega, Jose ESStarr King ES	
			SPANISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alvarado ESBuena Vista Horace MannHarte, Bret ESWebster, Daniel ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Flynn, Leonard ESHuerta, Dolores ESMarshall ESMonroe ESRevere, Paul
K-5 Elementary Biliteracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English LearnersBilingual students	Instruction similar to DLI but designed for potential ELs who are native speakers of pathway language.	CANTONESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chin, John Yehall ES (K-2)E.R. Taylor ESHillcrest ESLau, Gordon ESMoscone ESParker, Jean ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monroe ESSpring Valley ESSutro ESUlloa ESVisitation Valley ES
			SPANISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bryant ESChávez, César ESCleveland ESGlen Park ESGuadalupe (K-3)Moscone ESTaylor, E.R. ES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hillcrest ESLongfellow ESMuir, John ESSanchez ESSerra, Junipero ESSpring Valley ES
K-5 Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES)	All students	30-60 minutes of language and cultural enrichment 3-5 days a week.	ARABIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Redding ES	
			FILIPINO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Carmichael, BessieLongfellow ES	
			JAPANESE ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clarendon ES²Parks, Rosa ES³	
			VIETNAMESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tenderloin ES	
TK-12 English Plus Pathway	All students	Sheltered content instruction with 30 minutes of Designated ELD.	Available at all school sites except Buena Vista Horace Mann, CIS at De Avila, Huerta ES, Marshall ES, Yu ES, Lee Newcomer School and Mission Education Center		
K-5 Elementary Newcomer	English Learners	Instruction in the native language with 60 minutes of Designated ELD.	CANTONESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lee, Edwin and Anita Newcomer School	
			SPANISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mission Education Center	