



One Pager: English Language Learning

Who is an English Learner?

An English Learner, or EL, is a student whose home language is not English and needs support learning English so they can access their grade level content. EL students receive language support services that help them develop their English language proficiency while developing content knowledge to be academically successful. In DC, the most spoken languages of English Learners (ELs) are Spanish, Amharic, French, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

How is an EL Student Identified?

All parents and guardians of newly enrolled students at DC Wildflower must answer the questions in the Home Language Identification Survey section of enrollment. This lets the school staff know which language(s) the student and family speak at home. If the response to any of the questions is a language other than English, the school will then administer the appropriate screening tools to determine eligibility to receive English Language Learning (ELL) support at school.

What assessments are used to determine eligibility for EL services?

Depending on the child's grade level, DC Wildflower uses various screening tools to assess for English language proficiency (ELP). Please refer to the table below for further details.

Grade Level	Assessment Used	Skills Assessed	Designations	Eligible for Services
PK3 – PK4	Pre-IPT	Listening Speaking	Non-English Speaker Limited-English Speaker Fluent-English Speaker	Non-English Speaker Limited-English Speaker
Kindergarten	K-WAPT	Listening Speaking	Low Medium High Exceptional	Low Medium High (consult only)
1st – 12th Grades *1st grade students tested with K-WAPT in the 1st half of year	WIDA	Listening Speaking Reading Writing	Level 1: Entering Level 2: Beginning Level 3: Developing Level 4: Expanding Level 5: Bridging Level 6: Fluency	Levels 1-4.5

Knowing Your Rights

When students take the initial English Level Proficiency (ELP) screener test and are deemed eligible for services, parents/guardians can choose to have their children opt out of these programs by submitting a written letter to their school.

Please note that even if the parent/guardian chooses to opt out of receiving ELL services, all EL students are still required to participate in the annual WIDA ELP ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment until they score an ELP level 4.5 or above. More information can be found at: <https://dcps.dc.gov/service/supports-english-learners-els>

Parents and guardians of children who qualify for ELL services have the legal right to be informed, in a language they can understand, about the available programs and services.