The Boston Public Schools (BPS) has made high quality instruction for English Language Learners a top priority and provides various instructional programs and services to help students learn academic English as they learn content in all subject areas.

Our goal is that all ELs will graduate as lifelong learners with 21st century skills in order to succeed in college and careers.

All English Learners (ELs) have a legal right to receive sheltered content instruction and English as a Second Language (ESL) services in any BPS school provided by teachers who hold the SEI endorsement and/or the ESL license, per Massachusetts state guidelines.

Additional services may be available for students entitled to enrichment services for as long as they remain ELL students. These services are designed to compensate students for programming and services that they did not receive because they were not identified previously as an ELL or because they were deemed to have opted out of the district's ELL programs and services. Please contact OELL for additional information.

English Learners (ELs) can be transitioned to Former English Learners (FELs) based on academic performance and assessment results (WIDA ACCESS and MCAS / PARCC). Each school’s Language Assessment Team (LAT) will use all available evidence to determine when students have demonstrated a level of English proficiency that no longer requires English as a Second Language (ESL). The LAT will monitor all FELs for a minimum of two (2) years to ensure their academic success.

Our vision is to provide a culturally and linguistically responsive education with the supports needed to ensure equitable access to opportunities that promote language acquisition, bilingualism, biliteracy, and lifelong learning.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.bostonpublicschools.org/ell

@BPS_OELL on Twitter.com

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) provides several different instructional program options tailored to meet the diverse needs of English Learners (ELs) and the educational preferences of their families. The ultimate goals for each program are for ELs to meet performance criteria determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in order to attain academic proficiency in English and access grade-level core content instruction (for example, English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science). In addition, each instructional option ensures that ELs with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in a program consistent with their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

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Office of English Learners
Newcomers Assessment and Counseling Center

Dr. Esparza
Assistant Superintendent

Our commitment
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In this program model, students are all English Learners (ELs) who speak the same native language, taught by qualified teacher(s), and have English Language Development (ELD) Levels 1 to 3. Sheltered instruction is intended to make instruction in grade-level academic content areas more accessible to EL students. The language of instruction is English, with native language clarification provided when needed. The student also receives English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, which is designed to teach English to EL students.

Presently available in Spanish: In this program model, about half of students in the classroom are speakers of the program’s partner language (e.g. Spanish) and the other half are English speakers, taught by qualified teacher(s). Instruction is provided in both languages with the goal that students will become bilingual or biliterate. The program entry grade levels are K1 to 2 and 9 to 11. Students between grade levels 3 and 8 must be assessed by the school in the partner language to enter the program. English learner (EL) students also receive English Language Development (ELD) instruction, which is designed to teach English to EL students.

Students receive intensive literacy instruction in the native language, and age-appropriate core content instruction in the native language, taught by qualified teacher(s). Upon exiting this program, students are prepared to enter a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) program. A waiver is required to enter a HILT for SLIFE program.