

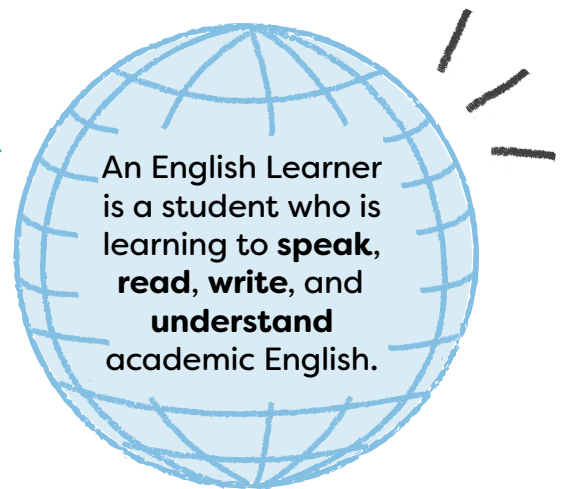
LOUISIANA BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS

The Department is focused on ensuring school systems are prepared for a [strong start to the 2020-2021 academic year](#). A new school year means new experiences, new teachers, and new goals. This guide provides you, as a parent of an English Learner (EL), with an overview of what you can do to help prepare your child for the beginning of school.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

HOW IS AN EL IDENTIFIED?

- If the parent or guardian lists a language other than English on the [Home Language Survey](#), and
- The student scores less than proficient on the [English Language Proficiency Screener \(ELPS\)](#),
- The student may receive language services.



Each year, until your child meets the criteria to be reclassified as Fully English Proficient, your child will take the [English Language Proficiency Test \(ELPT\)](#) to measure progress toward that goal.

WHAT ARE THE LOUISIANA CONNECTORS FOR ELS?

The Louisiana Connectors for English Learners support students' engagement in the Louisiana Student Standards despite their English language proficiency limitations. The Connectors describe the skills that ELs should achieve at each grade level and provide teachers with guidance on how to best design instruction for these students.

WHAT WILL STUDENT LEARNING LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR?

ELs WILL

- ✓ learn grade-level content through a curriculum using supports,
- ✓ read for meaning using a variety of texts,
- ✓ express informed opinions supported by evidence,
- ✓ examine sources to learn content and make connections across content areas, and
- ✓ make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING AT HOME?

By supporting your child at home, you can help set high expectations for learning. Understanding what your child knows and is able to do begins with conversations with your child and your child's teacher(s). By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful.

STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

What are you learning
in _____ class?

Do you understand
what you are learning?

Do you get any additional help from your
teacher with this topic?

Do you feel comfortable asking for
additional help when you need it?

TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

What types of accommodations and
supports does my child receive every day?

Is my child able to effectively communicate
with you?

Is my child making the progress necessary to
keep on track with peers?

What can I do to continue to help
my child's English improve?

- ✓ Take a look at the [LA Connectors for ELs](#). They describe the English language skills and knowledge students need to have at each grade level.
- ✓ Make contact with your child's teachers and EL specialist to share information and answer any questions about your child's individualized language development needs.
- ✓ Provide your child with opportunities to practice reading and writing in your native language. Research shows that this helps to support English literacy skills.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Below are additional resources that you can access to further support your child's learning at home.

STRONG START 2020 LIBRARY

Resources and guidance dedicated to ensuring that school systems are prepared for a strong start to the 2020-2021 academic year.

LOUISIANA'S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX LIBRARY

Information on standards, test results, and other assessment resources.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESOURCES

Resources for families of English Learners

ENGLISH LEARNER LIBRARY

Information and resources for families of English Learners

PARENT GUIDE TO ELPT

ELPT information for families of English Learners

WHOM DO I NEED TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Please call or email your child's teacher with questions about your child's progress. Additional questions that can't be addressed by the teacher, should be directed to the school principal. If you need a translator or translated school documents, please alert the school principal and these will be provided to you.
