

Attending ECE programming and receiving bilingual instruction are some of the most important factors in supporting ELs' timely attainment of English proficiency.

ELs who receive Early Childhood Education (ECE) are **1.9 times** more likely to reach English Proficiency.

For every year that ELs receive bilingual instruction, they are **1.2 times** more likely to achieve English proficiency.

These findings are based on a study of DPS' English Learners (ELs) and their development of English proficiency over a 9-year period. This study investigated two groups of students: those who became English proficient and those who did not become English proficient.*

Recommendations

Increase ELs' opportunity to receive effective preschool and early childhood services.**

- Increase ELs' enrollment in ECE by outreaching to parents and community partners.
- The ECE Department is partnering with the ELA Department to increase EL enrollment in ECE through birth-to-8 efforts, supporting bilingual ECE instruction, and recruiting ELA-S ECE teachers. Schools can support this by continuing to engage parents and community about the benefits of ECE.
 - The ECE Department provides information and professional learning to contracted ECE sites for best practices regarding bilingual instruction.

Continue effective implementation of bilingual instruction from ECE to 5th grade.

- Native language instruction allows students to become academically fluent in their native language, which can be a springboard to learning English.
 - **Implementing bilingual programming:** For additional guidance for elementary TNLI schools, see the [Language Allocation Guidelines](#), or talk with your ELA Partner.
 - **Instructional Guidance:** Continue partnerships between ELA and C&I to provide best practices for English/Spanish guidance for schools in all content areas. See the [ELA-S Resource Library](#) for more information.
 - **Student Engagement:** Schools should ensure instruction is culturally relevant. Such instruction legitimizes students' cultural heritage and lends a coherence to home and school, which can promote students' engagement. For more, talk to your ELA Partner.

More Information

For further info on ECE programming, contact Cheryl Caldwell.

* For more on the Long-term EL Research Study (where these findings came from), contact Patrick Rich, patrick_rich@dpsk12.org.

**Recent research finds substantial benefits for intensive early childhood (from birth-age 5) interventions. For every \$1 spent on services, there was a \$6 benefit (in terms of education, health, income, and crime reduction. Source: Garcia, Heckman, et al. (2016): *The Life-cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program*.