

6 Things to Know About English Language Proficiency



What is English language proficiency (ELP)?



Maine defines English language proficiency (ELP) as sufficient skill in English necessary to meaningfully access the curriculum. This indicator of school success focuses on English learners and measures the progress they make toward English language proficiency each school year.

Who are English learners?



English learners are students who have a primary or home language other than English and are in the process of learning English. Approximately 3% of Maine's students are English learners and their schools support them in learning English to succeed academically.

Where does the data come from?



English learners are administered ACCESS for ELLs, an assessment that measures a student's ability to listen, speak, read, and write in English.

What is Maine's target for success in ELP?



A student's overall score on ACCESS for ELLs ranges from 1.0-6.0. In Maine, English language proficiency is defined as level 4.5, so progress in the English language proficiency indicator measures how much progress a student makes each year toward reaching level 4.5. The average progress towards the students' annual target is between 80% and 95%.

Why is Maine tracking ELP?



The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each state have an accountability system that includes English language proficiency as an indicator of school progress and success.

How will it look on the school report card?



Schools that have ten or more students who are English learners will receive a progress in ELP measurement on the Report Card, which will be reflective of the average yearly progress that all English learners in the school have made.