



A Survey of State ELL/ESL Funding Systems

Prepared by
Michael Griffith and John Hancock
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The following information describes how selected states fund English Language Learner/English as a Second Language (ELL/ESL) programs. The states chosen for this survey include: California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Texas. All information contained in this StateNote is derived from state sources.

Additional information on bilingual education and ESL/ELL can be found on the ECS Bilingual/ESL Issue Site, under Education Issues, <http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/issue.asp?issueID=16>.

California

<i>Program Name</i>	English Language Acquisition Program
<i>Type of Funding</i>	Categorical
<i>Total Funding</i>	\$57.7 million in FY 2005-06
<i>Funding Per Student</i>	\$100 per identified student
<i>How Students Are Identified</i>	Funds are distributed to districts for all English learners in grades 4-8. When funding requests exceed available funds, the law stipulates that priority be given to schools with the highest proportion of English learners. Districts may also receive a one-time allocation of \$100 per pupil for pupils in kindergarten through grade 12 who are reclassified as fluent English proficient (FEP), and for students in grades 4-8 who did not receive program funding. (California Education Code: 400 - 410)

Colorado

<i>Program Name</i>	English Language Proficiency Program
<i>Type of Funding</i>	Categorical
<i>Total Funding</i>	\$4,043,555 (FY 2005-2006)
<i>Funding Per Student</i>	Students will not be funded more than \$400 or 20% of the state average per pupil operating revenues. Each district is eligible for two years on behalf of eligible students. (COLO. REV. STAT § 22-24-(100-106))
<i>How Students Are Identified</i>	State department of education tests are used in school districts to identify eligible students.

Florida

<i>Program Name</i>	English for Speakers of Other Languages
<i>Type of Funding</i>	Part of the state's foundation formula
<i>Total Funding</i>	Unknown
<i>Funding Per Student</i>	Students in ESL programs are given an additional weight of .318 in the state's foundation formula.
<i>How Students Are Identified</i>	The eligible student is identified and assessed as limited-English proficient based on assessment criteria approved by the State Department of Education. (Fla. Stat. Ann § 1011.62)

Maryland

<i>Program Name</i>	Limited English Proficiency
<i>Type of Funding</i>	Categorical
<i>Total Funding</i>	\$67.8 million (FY 2005-2006)
<i>Funding Per Student</i>	Determined annually based on the number of limited-English proficient (LEP) students enrolled in the state system for at least two years. (MD. REGS. CODE. TIT. 13A.05.07.04)
<i>How Students Are Identified</i>	Non- or limited-English proficient (NEP/LEP) by means of a home language survey as well as an assessment of English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills that is considered reliable by the Maryland State Department of Education. (MD. REGS. CODE. TIT. 13A.05.07.03)

Michigan

<i>Program Name</i>	Bilingual Education
<i>Type of Funding</i>	Categorical
<i>Total Funding</i>	\$2.8 million (FY 2005-2006)
<i>Funding Per Student</i>	Reimbursement is on an equal per-pupil basis and is based on the total number of ESL students enrolled in the state.
<i>How Students Are Identified</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. School district home language survey to determine initial eligibility.2. Student enrolled in grades 3-12 who scores at or below the 40th percentile on approved oral proficiency test.3. Student enrolled in grades 3-12 who scores at or below the 40th percentile on an English reading test, or sub-test, approved by the department. (MICH. ADMIN. CODE. R. 388.705)

New Jersey

<i>Program Name</i>	Bilingual Education Aid
<i>Type of Funding</i>	Categorical
<i>Total Funding</i>	\$65.6 million (FY 2005-2006)
<i>Funding Per Student</i>	\$1,274 per identified student (FY 2005-2006) (N.J. Stat. § 18A:46A-9)

How Are Students Identified Students who are identified as LEP and who are participating in a state-qualified bilingual program (*N.J.A.C. 6A: 15 - 1.3(c)*) or students who continue to need and participate in bilingual, ESL or ELS program services on the basis of multiple indicators (*N.J.A.C. 6A: 15 – 1.10(b)*).

New York

Program Name Limited English Proficiency Aid

Type of Funding Part of the state's foundation formula and Categorical Aid

Total Funding Districts are required to expend at least as much money on LEP programs this year as they did in previous years (\$105.5 million in 2005-2006). Plus, low income districts can receive additional LEP grants (\$4.2 million in 2005-2006).

Funding Per Student School districts receive \$143 per pupil on average for LEP students within the funding formula. In addition, low income districts are eligible for grants equal to 33% of the funding that the district receives from the state for an average student.

How Are Students Identified Pupils from homes where a language other than English is spoken, and who score below the 40th percentile on a standardized test of English proficiency. Districts must receive prior program approval and report actual ESL expenditures for the previous school year to qualify for this payment.

Texas

Program Name Bilingual Education

Type of Funding Part of the state's foundation formula

Total Funding Unknown

Funding Per Student Each student who is identified as needing bilingual education is given an addition weight of .1 in the state's foundation formula.

How Are Students Identified Students who are enrolled in a bilingual education program.

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