



WEST
VANCOUVER
SCHOOLS

English Language Learning Support

The primary goal of the British Columbia school system is that of student success through intellectual, social-emotional and career development.

The purpose of ELL services is to support student success and inclusion in school and society.

(MOE – ELL Policy Guidelines - 2018, p. 4)



Benefits of ELL

British Columbia schools value diversity. Schools welcome and celebrate multilingual families. ELL services help students to reach their full, individual potentials.

ELL support can help...

- Promote a sense of pride and understanding of various cultures and languages
- Provide a safe, nurturing learning environment
- Develop social and academic language skills

ELL students say that their ELL teachers...

“Speak more slowly and clearly.”

“Give me examples and show pictures to help me understand.”

“Show me how the English language works.”

“Teach me new words every day.”

“Give me time to think before I answer questions.”

“Teach me strategies to help me take notes and study.”

“Really listen and try to understand me.”



How can I get ELL support for my child?

If your family speaks an additional language at home, your child may be eligible to receive ELL services. The BC Ministry of Education recognizes the important contributions of newcomer families and provides funding and support to school districts.

English Language Specialist teachers will assess your child to determine their proficiency levels and the support that will best suit them.

At any time, if you feel your child needs additional language support, please speak to your child's teacher or the school's English Language Specialist.

Report Cards (Communicating Student Learning)

In each of the school's reporting periods during the year, alongside the classroom teachers' reports, the ELL specialist teacher will report on language proficiency and progress. ELL specialists use the ELL Standards to communicate progress (see summary chart in centre of this brochure).

How long can my child receive ELL support?

Language learning takes many years to develop. Every child progresses at different rates and some students may require less time and others more. There are many variables that impact language acquisition. Some factors are:



- Age of arrival
- English proficiency upon arrival to Canada
- Extent of schooling in first language
- First language proficiency
- Work habits
- Motivation
- Exposure to English outside of school



Assessment/Continuum of Learning

As students acquire language, they progress through stages of acquisition in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

This progression may look differently for each student. Students are assessed initially and continuously so teachers can plan the best language supports possible. ELL Specialists will target instruction so students can gain academic language proficiency.

	What Are Students Able to Do?	What Does ELL Support Look Like?
Beginning	Begin to understand and express basic English words and phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lots of personalized supports so students feel a part of the classroom/school community• Targeted vocabulary instruction for everyday language 
Developing	Able to understand everyday English, simple text and vocabulary	
Expanding	Able to express ideas using a range of social and academic language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personalized supports so students can access, engage and apply English language to different Areas of Learning.• Targeted vocabulary instruction for academic language 
Consolidating	Able to use increasing academic language in grade level content areas	
Bridging	Approaching grade-level proficiency in English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Targeted English support for independent learning in all academic areas

Can we continue to use our home language with our child?

Yes, please! Research shows students who continue to use their home language typically develop a rich vocabulary and strong academic skills in English.

How is learning a language similar to an iceberg?

The *top of the iceberg* is the everyday social language used when talking to your friends, playing, ordering food in a restaurant and so on. We see this language emerge quickly. It can take up to 2 years to develop this language.



The *bottom of the iceberg* is much larger and represents the academic language of textbooks and the curriculum. This language can take 5-7 years to develop. This is where the ELL support is essential for academic success.

What can I do to help my child?

Here are some ideas...

- Talk with your child about a wide variety of topics in your home language and English
- Read with your child and talk about what you've read
- Engage with your school community (teachers, Parent Advisory Committee, school events)
- Access community resources to help your child develop English (local library, community centre programs)
- Be patient and remember that learning a language takes time. Celebrate wherever your children are on their language learning journey. More than anything they need your support and positive encouragement!



This brochure was produced collectively by the ELL Coordinators/Consultants of school districts:

West Vancouver School District 45

Vancouver School District 39

Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows School District 42

Richmond School District 38

Sources:

ELL Policy and Guidelines – BC Ministry of Education -2018

ELL Standards – BC Ministry of Education - 2018