

# The EL Program at Columbia Elementary School

Madison City Schools is a diverse school system, and we have many families that speak a language other than English at home. Our English Language (EL) program is designed to help our English learners become proficient in English, while encouraging families to maintain the use of their native language at home.

## How do we identify English Learners?

At registration, every family completes a Home Language Survey. If a language other than English is recorded on the survey, students in Grades K-12 must take the WIDA MODEL/WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT). These assessment tools measure a student's English language proficiency on a scale of 1.0 – 6.0. We use the proficiency score, classroom teacher input, and other available assessment data to determine eligibility for our EL program. Parents have the right to waive supplementary EL services.

## What does the EL program include at Columbia?

Our classroom teachers accommodate instruction and assessments to meet the specific needs of our English learners based on their individual language proficiencies. In addition to the regular classroom supports, our English Learners may participate in a language acquisition or language arts class tailored for EL students.

## How do we measure student progress?

Near the end of each school year, every English learner in grades K-12 takes an annual English assessment called ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. This assessment measures listening, speaking, reading, and writing proficiency in English on a scale from 1.0 – 6.0. We compare the scores from year to year to measure student progress.

### EL Teacher Information

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Once a student scores an overall 4.8, he/she will exit the EL program. We monitor all exited students for four years to ensure academic success.



**Languages  
represented at  
Columbia:**

Arabic  
Burmese  
Chinese/Mandarin  
Chinese/Traditional  
Filipino/Tagalog  
French  
Gujarati  
Hindi  
Indonesian  
Japanese  
Korean  
Portuguese  
Russian  
Spanish  
Tamil  
Telugu  
Vietnamese



