

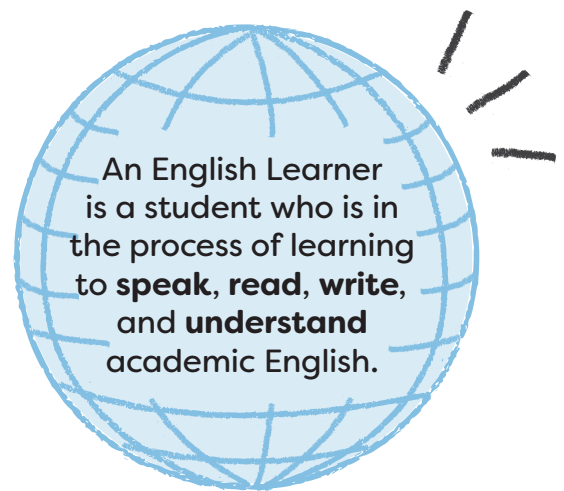
# LOUISIANA BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS

A new school year means a new grade level, new teachers, and new goals. This guide provides you, as a parent of an English Learner (EL), with a quick overview of what you can do to prepare your child for a smooth transition back to school.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

### HOW IS AN EL IDENTIFIED?

- If a parent/guardian indicates a language other than English on the Home Language Survey, and
- The student scores less than proficient on the English Language Proficiency Screener (ELPS).
- The student is eligible to receive additional language support to access classroom content.



Each year, until your child meets the criteria to be reclassified as Fully English Proficient, he/she will take the English Language Proficiency Test to measure progress toward that goal.

## WHAT ARE THE LOUISIANA CONNECTORS FOR ELS?

The Louisiana Connectors for English Learners were adopted in the spring of 2017. The Connectors for ELs are the bridge between Louisiana Student Standards and the student's English Language Proficiency level.

## WHAT WILL STUDENT LEARNING LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM THIS YEAR?

### ELS WILL...

- ✓ learn grade-level content through a standards-based curriculum using targeted supports,
- ✓ read for meaning using a variety of texts,
- ✓ express informed opinions supported by evidence,
- ✓ examine sources to learn content and make connections across content areas, and
- ✓ make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

## HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING AT HOME?

Learning and language development should not end when students leave the classroom. By supporting your child at home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations for learning. Understanding what your child knows and is able to do begins with meaningful conversations with your child and your child's teacher. By taking these small steps, you will help your child become successful both in and out of the classroom.

### STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

What are you learning  
in \_\_\_\_\_ class?

Do you understand  
what you are learning?

Do you get any additional help from your  
teacher with this topic?

Do you feel comfortable asking for  
additional help when you need it?

Did you leave your classroom  
to work on anything in small groups?  
What did you learn?

### TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

What types of accommodations and  
supports does my child receive everyday?

Is my child able to effectively communicate  
with you?

Can you show me an example  
of my child's work?

Is my child making the progress necessary to  
keep him/her on track with his/her peers?

What can we do to continue to help  
my child's English improve?

- ✓ Take a look at the **LA Connectors for ELs** <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academic-standards>. These give descriptions of the English language skills and knowledge your child should have based on his/her grade level.
- ✓ Make contact with your child's teachers and EL Specialist to share information and answer any questions about your child's individualized language development needs.
- ✓ Provide your child with opportunities to practice reading and writing in your native language. Research shows that doing so helps to support English literacy skills.

## TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Below are additional resources that you can access to further support your child's learning at home.

### LOUISIANA'S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX LIBRARY

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/family-support-toolbox-library>

### ENGLISH LEARNER LIBRARY

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/english-learners>

### RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES OF ENGLISH LEARNERS

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/ellresources.html>

## WHO DO I NEED TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Please call or email your child's teacher with questions about their progress. Additional questions that can't be addressed by their teacher, should be directed to the school principal. If you need a translator or translated school documents, please alert the school Principal and these will be provided to you.

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