

ELL Services @ Jing Mei Elementary School

What is ELL and how do you qualify for ELL services?

ELL stands for English Language Learner. Families who mark “speaking another language other than English at home” upon enrollment before the 2017-2018 school year will be administered the WELPA (Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment) to determine the level of English proficiency. If your child performs at Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced they qualify as an ELL. Enrollment during and after the 2017-2018 will be administered the ELPA21 screener. (For more information about the assessment itself, please visit: <http://www.elpa21.org/>)

What is WELPA or ELPA21?

WELPA (Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment) is currently named ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century). This computer-based assessment is given to all ELLs in the spring. The assessment is based on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) needed to reach college and career readiness. It assesses the four language domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Results are mailed out during the summer. If your child performs at Emerging or Progressing they continue to qualify as an ELL. (For more information about the assessment itself, please visit: <http://www.elpa21.org/>)

What does ELL service look like at Jing Mei?

K-2nd students who qualify as ELL will receive the same English instruction as non-qualifying ELLs. They will have 120 minutes of English instruction per week (please see our Dual Language Model in the About -> Mandarin Dual Language section); in 2nd grade that time increases to roughly 200 minutes per week. 3rd -5th students receive 50% English and 50% Chinese language instruction. If a student qualifies as ELL for more than 3 years or is at Beginner level in 3rd – 5th, the ELL Facilitator will implement the necessary means for intervention; whether that is in-class support or pull-out intervention.

How do I ensure my ELL student is on track for English language development?

Jing Mei teachers are highly-qualified to teach in both Mandarin Chinese and English. We align our English instruction with the Common Core State Standards (<http://www.corestandards.org/>) and the English Language Proficiency Standards (<http://www.elpa21.org/elp-standards>). Bilingualism and biliteracy is a pillar for Dual Language Education and we strive to provide best practices for instruction in both languages. Please refer to the Can-Do statements to create language goals for your students. Research by Cummins (1996) indicate that it can take an ELL 5-7 years to reach the same level of English proficiency as his or her age-equivalent peers in non-dual language programs.

We believe in giving students equal opportunity to receive high-quality instruction. We affirm student identity, promote additive bilingualism through the dual language program, and structure our work for integration of all voices. Please contact Eve Chan, ELL Facilitator, (chane@bsd405.org) or Tina Bogucharova (Bogucharovat@bsd405.org) if you have further questions about ELL services.