

## 50-State Comparison: English Learner Policies

### Can state-funded pre-K programs provide DLL/EL instruction?

May 2020

The following information was gathered from state statute and regulation only. The information included here reflects state-funded pre-K programs in which state statute and/or regulation provide detail on instruction specific to English learners or dual-language learners. Based on Education Commission of the States' review, at least nine states specify some degree of instruction specific to English learners or dual-language learners in one or more of their state-funded pre-K programs. View the full 50-State Comparison: English Learner Policies [here](#).

STATE	CAN STATE-FUNDED PRE-K PROGRAMS PROVIDE DLL/EL INSTRUCTION?	SOURCE
Federal Law		
Alabama	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Alaska	Yes. Based upon the state definition of English Learners, the state must provide instruction to students starting at age 3.	Alaska Admin Code § 34.0
Arizona	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Arkansas	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
California	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Colorado	Yes. All participating districts must have a Colorado Preschool Program plan for the delivery of services that includes a section on staff development for teaching children who do not have English as a first language.	1 Colo Code § 301- 32:22 4.00
Connecticut	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Delaware	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Florida	Not specified in statute or regulation.	

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Georgia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Hawaii	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Idaho	N/A	
Illinois	Yes.	Ill. Adm. Code 123, § 2
Indiana	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Iowa	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Kansas	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Kentucky	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Louisiana	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Maine	Yes. Public elementary school programs (inclusive of pre-k when offered) may establish bilingual programs and may provide transitional instruction to students with limited english proficiency.	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. A, § 47
Maryland	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Massachusetts	Yes. Dual Language Education or 2-way immersion programs may begin in the early grades, including pre-K.	Mass. Laws / 71A §
Michigan	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Minnesota	Yes, bilingual and/or ESL instruction may be provided to English Learners--including students enrolled in voluntary prekindergarten or a school readiness plus program.	Minn. Ann. § 124D.
Mississippi	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Missouri	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Montana	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Nebraska	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Nevada	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New Jersey	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New Mexico	Not specified in statute or regulation.	

STATE	CAN STATE-FUNDED PRE-K PROGRAMS PROVIDE DLL/EL INSTRUCTION?	SOURCE
New York	Yes. Experimental Prekindergarten Programs are required to provide bilingual or ESL services as appropriate.	N.Y. Code of Educ. Regs. 151-1.1
North Carolina	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
North Dakota	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Ohio	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Oklahoma	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Oregon	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
South Carolina	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
South Dakota	N/A	
Tennessee	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Texas	Yes. Each school district that is required to offer a bilingual education or special language program shall offer a voluntary program for children of limited English proficiency who will be eligible for admission to kindergarten or the first grade at the beginning of the next school year. Children that can not comprehend or speak the english language are also eligible for free prekindergarten.	Tex. Educ. Code, § 29.061  Texas Educ. Code, § 29.151
Utah	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Vermont	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Virginia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Washington	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
West Virginia	Yes. Based upon the state definition of English Learners, the state must provide instruction to students starting at age 3.	W. Va. St. R. § 15-2-2
Wisconsin	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Wyoming	N/A	