

Early Learning Support (ELS) Program

Students Served: Students with Developmental Delays

Grades: PK3- 2

Program Lead: Manager, Learning and Behavior Supports

The Early Learning Support (ELS) program is designed to meet the individual needs of students with developmental delays. Students in the ELS program have self-contained IEPs (20+ hours of specialized instruction outside of general education) and frequently require a range of related services, such as speech and language, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

Academic Programming

Academic Component	DSI Program Elements and Guidance
Student to Staff Ratio	10 students: 1 special education teacher: 1 instructional paraprofessional
Core Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are exposed to all areas of the core content including ELA, mathematics, science and social studies with instruction aligned to DCPS Scope & Sequence where appropriate. ELS classroom instruction is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and scaffolded to meet the needs of individual students. Modified literacy and numeracy blocks.
Interventions	Foundations (K-2)
Transition	Grades PK3-2: Foundational Skills Course, Elementary Transition Activities (ETAs)

Student Profile

DCPS students in PK3 through 2nd grade with self-contained IEPs (20+ hours of specialized instruction outside of general education) are eligible for the ELS program. Typically, these students have a Developmental Delay (DD), Other Health Impairment (OHI), demonstrate delays in cognition, communication, social/emotional, motor and adaptive skills. Some students in an ELS program will have global delays, may be non-verbal, may not be ambulatory, or may have a G-tube or other medical device. An expressed goal of the ELS program is to promote inclusion by transitioning students to the general education setting once they are determined ready by the IEP team.

Student Profile	
Most common primary disability served	Developmental Delay or Other Health Impairment
Hours of specialized instruction outside general educations	20+ (related service hours are not factored)
Related Services	Per IEP

Staff Profile

Teacher certification and experience

Teachers of students in the ELS program are certified in special education. This includes aligning lessons to individual IEP goals, Common Core State Standards, and DCPS Scope & Sequence where appropriate.

Paraprofessional certification and experience

Classroom instructional paraprofessionals are consistent, active members of the classroom team and can provide specialized instruction under the direction of the special education teacher. ELS paraprofessionals are also responsible for data collection and small group or individual interventions. They co-plan with classroom teachers and provide additional behavioral support to students.

A strong ELS teacher or paraprofessional candidate has experience in the following areas:

- Differentiating instruction in elementary grades
- De-escalation strategies
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- Engagement with family and community members

ELS Specialists

ELS programs will be supported by Itinerant DSI specialists, as well as the cluster support teams. While the specialists formally supporting the ELS programs have largely moved to cluster-based model, specialized support is still offered through the central office. The cluster-based model will provide the instructional and behavioral supports.

Early Learning Support Program Classroom Locations (SY21-22)

Grades PS/PK	Grades K-2
Aiton	Aiton
Bancroft	Amidon Bowen
C.W. Harris	Bancroft
Drew	C.W. Harris
Excel Academy	Drew
H. D. Cooke	Excel Academy
JO Wilson	H. D. Cooke
Leckie	JO Wilson
Military Road	Lafayette
Miner	Ludlow Taylor
Moten	Miner
Murch	Murch
Noyes	Noyes
Savoy	Patterson
Smothers	Savoy
Stanton	Smothers
Thaddeus Stevens Early Learning Center	Stanton
Thomas	Thomas
Tubman	Tubman
West	West
Wheatley	Whittier
Whittier	