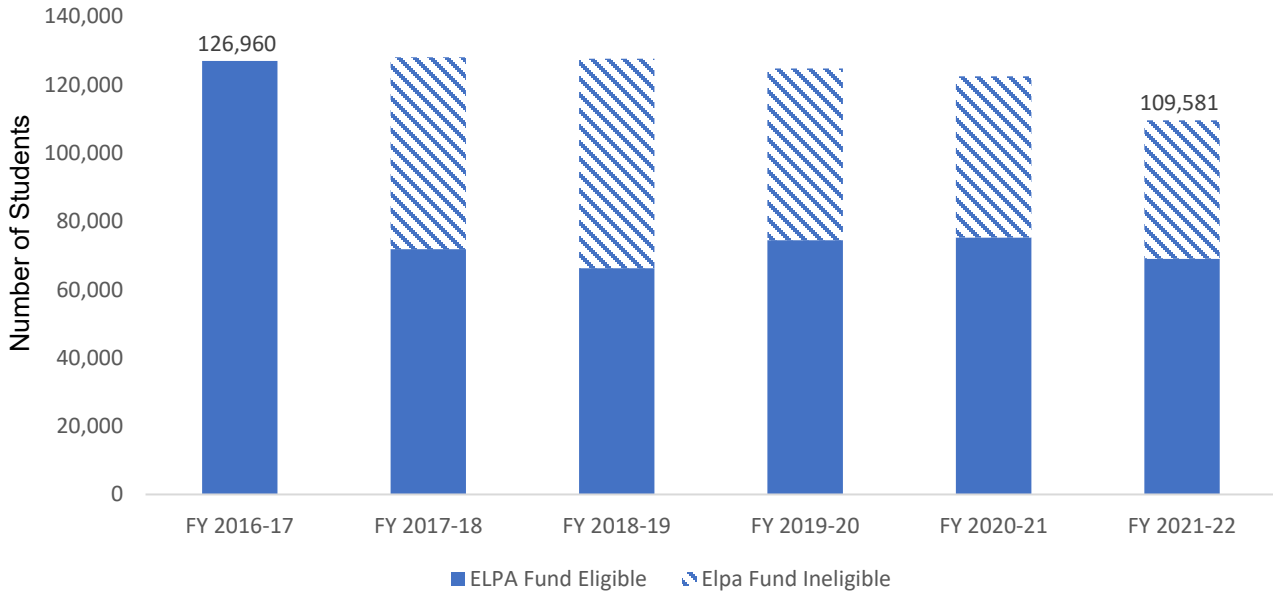


### Emergent Bilingual Students in Colorado: Funding Eligible/Ineligible\*



\* Colorado only funds students in their first 5 years

The number of Colorado’s PK-12 students identified as Emergent Bilingual Students, or English Language students according to CDE, decreased from more than 120,000 students in the 2020-21 school year to less than 110,000 in 2021-22. According to the Colorado English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA) students are “eligible for up to a total of five budget years regardless of whether the student transfers enrollment among Local Education Providers during the five years.”<sup>1</sup> The 2016-17 school year was the last year **all** Emergent Bilingual students received funding. Pre-Kindergarten students are served by school districts but are not eligible for ELPA funding. More than 80 percent of Colorado’s emergent bilingual students speak Spanish; in addition to Spanish students in Colorado speak 290 languages.

In terms of funding emerging bilinguals the chart below illustrates that school districts have averaged about \$180 per pupil over the past six years.

<b>Year</b>	<b>State ELPA \$s (excluding PD)</b>	<b>Per Pupil Funding for ALL ELPA students</b>
FY 2016-17	\$18,785,784	\$148
FY 2017-18	\$19,903,952	\$155
FY 2018-19	\$21,498,056	\$168
FY 2019-20	\$22,994,436	\$184
FY 2020-21	\$24,105,549	\$197
FY 2021-22	\$24,582,666	\$224

<sup>1</sup> Rules for the administration of the English Language Proficiency Act 1 CCR 301-10, <https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=7752&fileName=1%20CCR%20301-10>