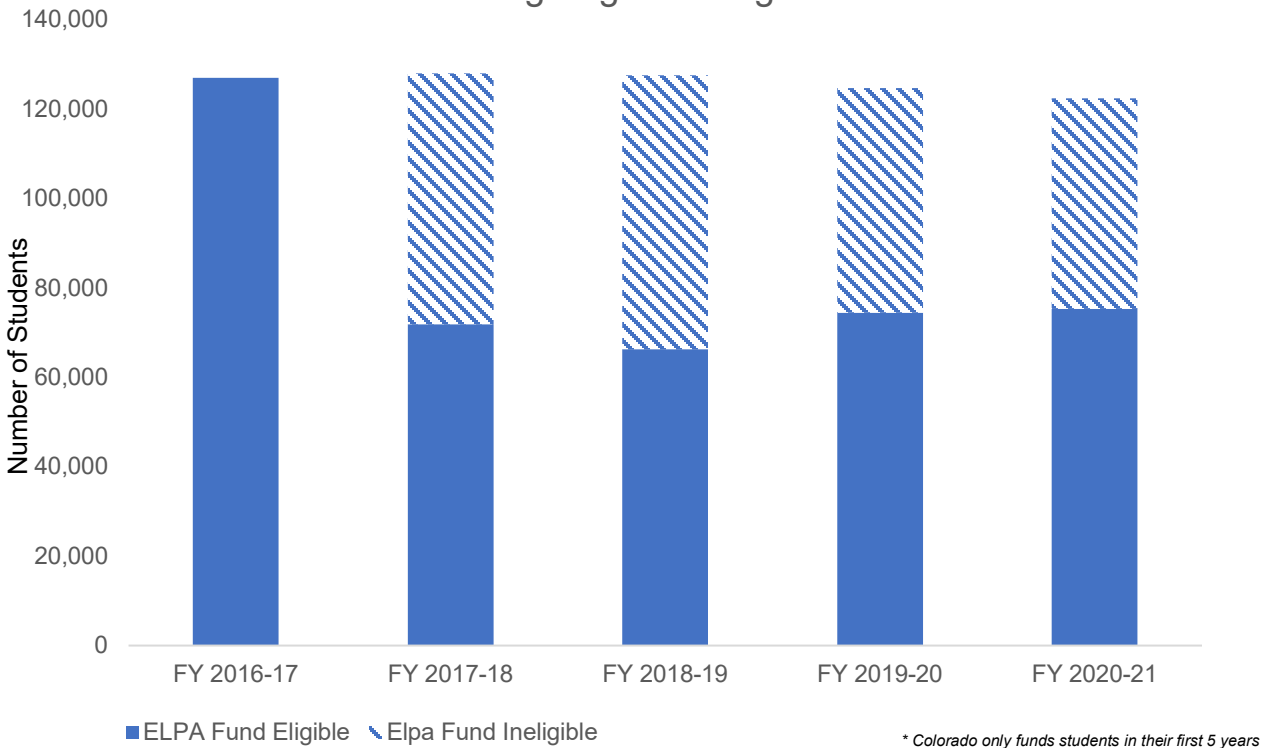


Emergent Bilingual Students: A Look at Student Count and Supplemental Funding

Emergent Bilingual Students in Colorado:
Funding Eligible/Ineligible*



Over 122,000 of Colorado’s PK-12 students are Emergent Bilingual Students in the 2020-21 school year, or English Language students according to CDE. This is more than 13% of the total PK-12 population. 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.”¹ 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 \$170 per pupil over the past five years.

Year	State ELPA \$s (excluding PD)	Per Pupil Funding for ALL ELPA students
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

¹ 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>