



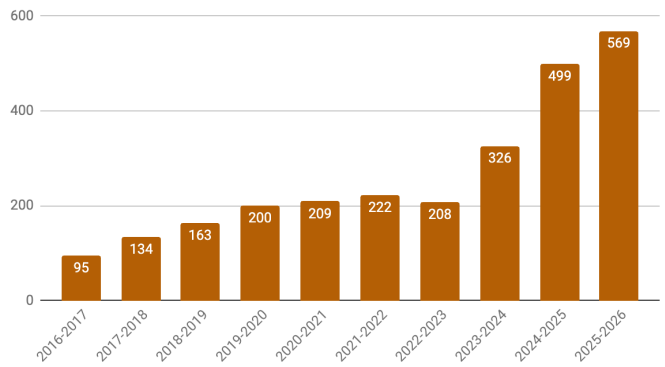
Bozeman Public Schools Multilingual English Learner (ML/EL) Overview

Bozeman Public Schools has experienced a substantial and enriching increase in our multilingual English learner (ML/EL) population, growing from fewer than 200 students before the pandemic (less than 2% of enrollment) to 569 students today—7.53% of our district.

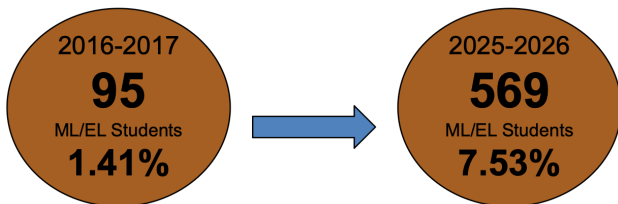
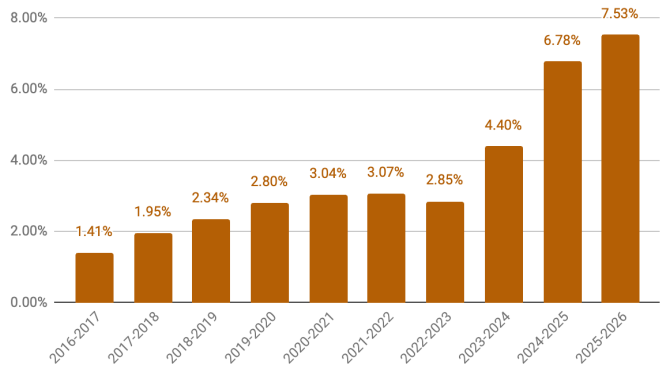
Over 90% of these learners are Spanish-speaking, bringing vibrant cultural and linguistic diversity that strengthens our schools and enriches the learning experience for all students.

At the same time, this growth presents new challenges as we work to fulfill our mission of ensuring high levels of learning for every student. Many of our ML/EL learners arrive with limited literacy in their primary language and a higher prevalence of trauma-related experiences, requiring additional layers of support, staffing, and instructional expertise.

BSD7 ML/EL Student Population By Number

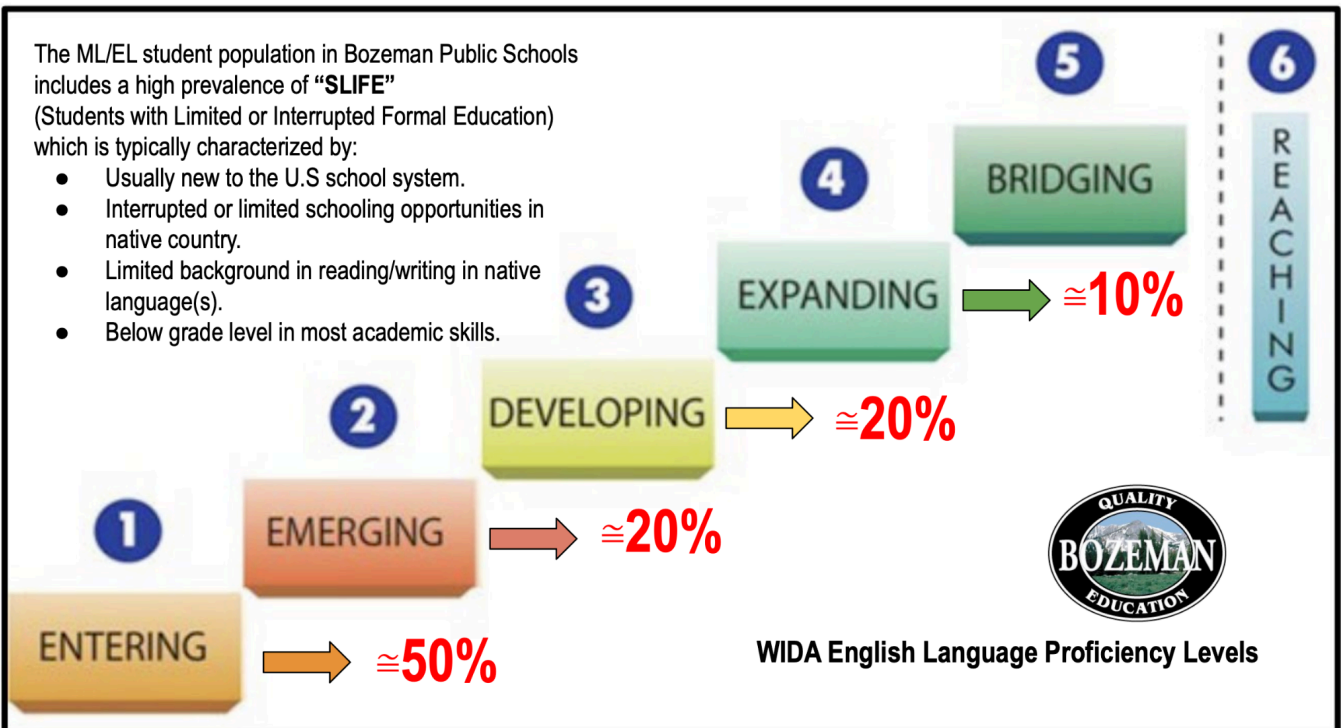


BSD7 ML/EL Student Population By Percentage

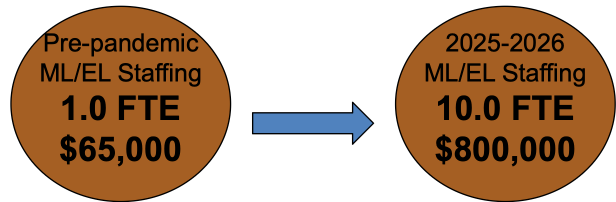


The ML/EL student population in Bozeman Public Schools includes a high prevalence of “SLIFE” (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education) which is typically characterized by:

- Usually new to the U.S school system.
- Interrupted or limited schooling opportunities in native country.
- Limited background in reading/writing in native language(s).
- Below grade level in most academic skills.



Bozeman Public Schools remains deeply committed to meeting these needs with compassion, evidence-based practices, and a belief that our increasingly diverse student body makes us a stronger and more connected community. The District has made significant investments in direct services staffing to support the needs of ML/EL learners. Despite only receiving a very small (\$39,000) state/federal grant, the District spends over \$800,000 a year in general fund dollars on ML/EL staffing and support.



Grade Band	K-5 8 Elementary Schools	6-8 2 Middle Schools	9-12 2 High Schools	District Wide
Staffing	*3.4 FTE Direct Student Services	1.6 FTE Direct Student Services	2.0 FTE Direct Student Services	1.0 FTE SEL Support 1.0 FTE Welcome Center 1.0 FTE Instructional Coach
Services Provided	Direct ELD Services (Level 1 & 2 Students) 30-45 minutes 2-3 times per week	ELD Class for Level 1 students for one year (in place of one elective) Pull out support in core subjects as available (Level 1 & 2 Students)	ELD Class for Level 1 Students for one year to replace English class Collab classes for English and US History/English combo (Level 1 and 2 Students) ML/EL Study Hall	Enrollment Support Community Wraparound Services Navigation - SEL Supports Instructional Coaching

* What would it take to meet the Mt OPI recommended minute requirements for level 1 & 2 English Learner students (60-135 minutes of ELD instruction five days a week) ?

Looking at BSD7 K-5 schools alone, it would be an increase from 3.4 FTE to 17 FTE (\$272,000 to \$1,360,000) which is a **400% increase**.

The data to the right shows elementary benchmark literacy data for ML/EL students who have been in the District for three or more years. Takeaway: the achievement gap is closing but it takes time and significant investments in resources. The primary challenges facing Bozeman Public Schools are:

- **Time** in the day to serve the ELD needs as well as the core content and SEL needs of the students.
- **Qualified personnel**, both in terms of FTE limitations and the pool of ELD staff available.
- **Resource challenges** - making classroom instruction accessible to Level 1 & 2 students is time consuming
- **Budget** - Significant lack of state/federal dollars to support ML/EL students puts strain on the general fund.

