

English as a Second Language Program

Mitchell Elementary has an ESL tutor on staff who is responsible for helping non-English students with their reading, writing, and speaking on a daily or weekly basis, as needed per student. The tutor typically works with a student for about 30 to 40 minutes in class or outside of class. The focus of the learning session is based on the areas in which the student needs the most help. By the end of a school year, an ESL student typically feels much more confident in the use of his or her English language skills.

At the beginning of the school year, the ESL tutor gives each student a placement test to assess his or her level of understanding of the English language. The tutor's education program for a student during the school year is based on the results of this test.

Colorado English Language Assessment

The Colorado English Language Assessment (CELA) is a test that helps teachers evaluate second language learners who are not yet proficient in English. The Mitchell ESL tutor gives this test to ESL students in January of every year to assess their proficiency.

- CELA tests a student's ability to listen to, speak, read, and write in English. CELA is used to test only those students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who are not yet fully proficient in the English language.
- CELA is typically administered in January of each year. Each test requires students to listen and respond to directions; speak in words, sentences, and phrases; and read and write in English. Each test takes about one hour, depending on the grade level.
- Based on their performance, students will receive a designation of *non-English proficient*, *limited English proficient*, or *fully English proficient*.