

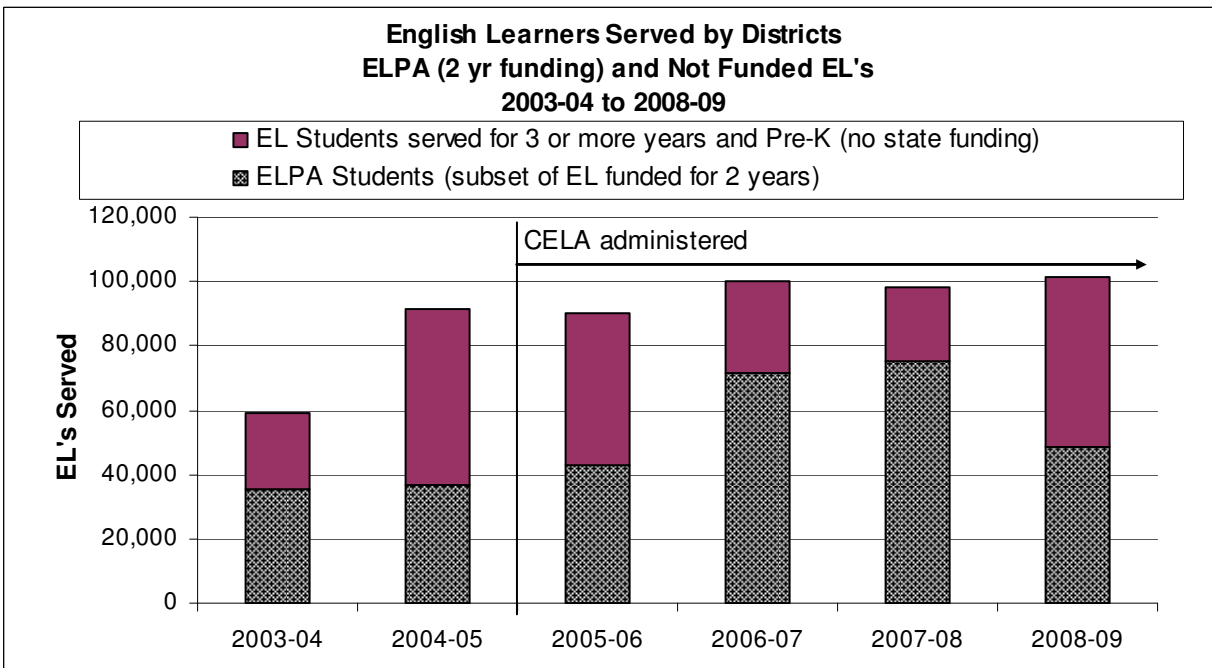
Colorado School Finance Project

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K-12 Students under the English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA)

1. ELPA students receive state funding for up to two school years. ELPA is a subset of English Learners (EL).
2. EL Students are students whose:
 - a. Dominate language is not English.
 - b. Academic achievement is impaired due to inability to comprehend or speak English.
3. Districts serve EL students after the two-year funding limit in order to meet proficiency targets.
4. Since 2005-06, Colorado has administered annually, the Colorado English Language Assessment (CELA), the single state English language assessment and identifier
5. Pre-K students do not receive ELPA funding.
6. 165 languages are served by the EL program in 135 districts.

Table 1: English Learners Served by Districts through 2008-09



In 2008-09, 101,379 English Learners were served in Colorado.¹ Of those students

- 48,774 were in year 1 or 2 of service and received state ELPA funding.
- 52,605 were served by districts but were not eligible for state ELPA funding.

“Currently, it is estimated that 100,000 Colorado public school students (12% of total statewide enrollment) have dominant languages other than English and are functioning below grade level”.²

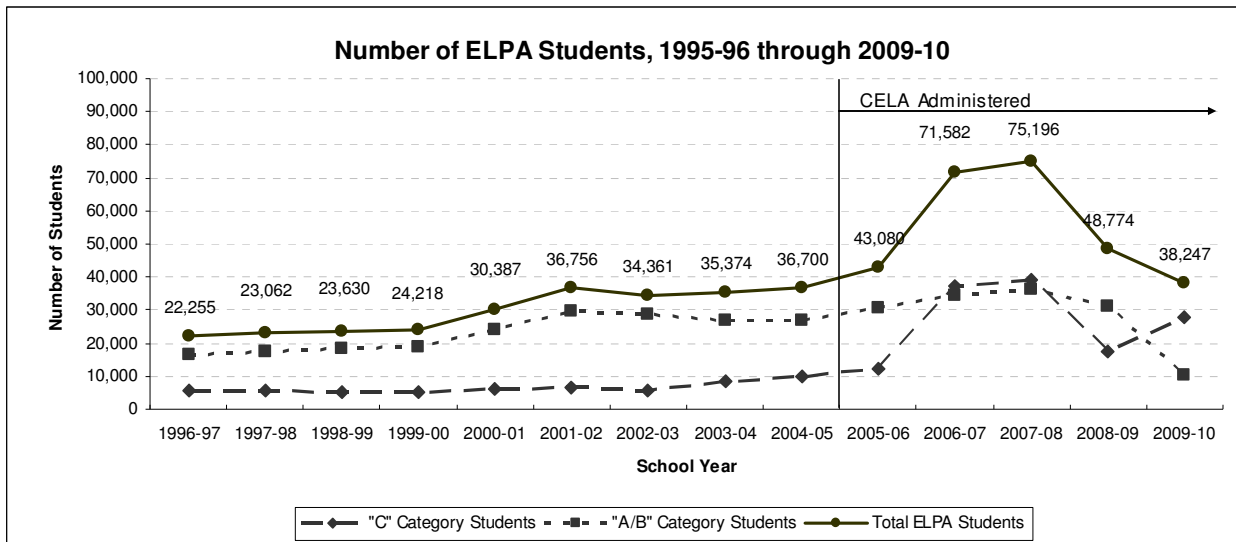
¹ English Learners in Colorado - State of State, CDE

² Understanding Colorado School Finance and Categorical Program Funding. Colorado Department of Education, July 2009

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Table 2: 2009-10 A/B, C Student Counts and Total ELPA (A/B + C)



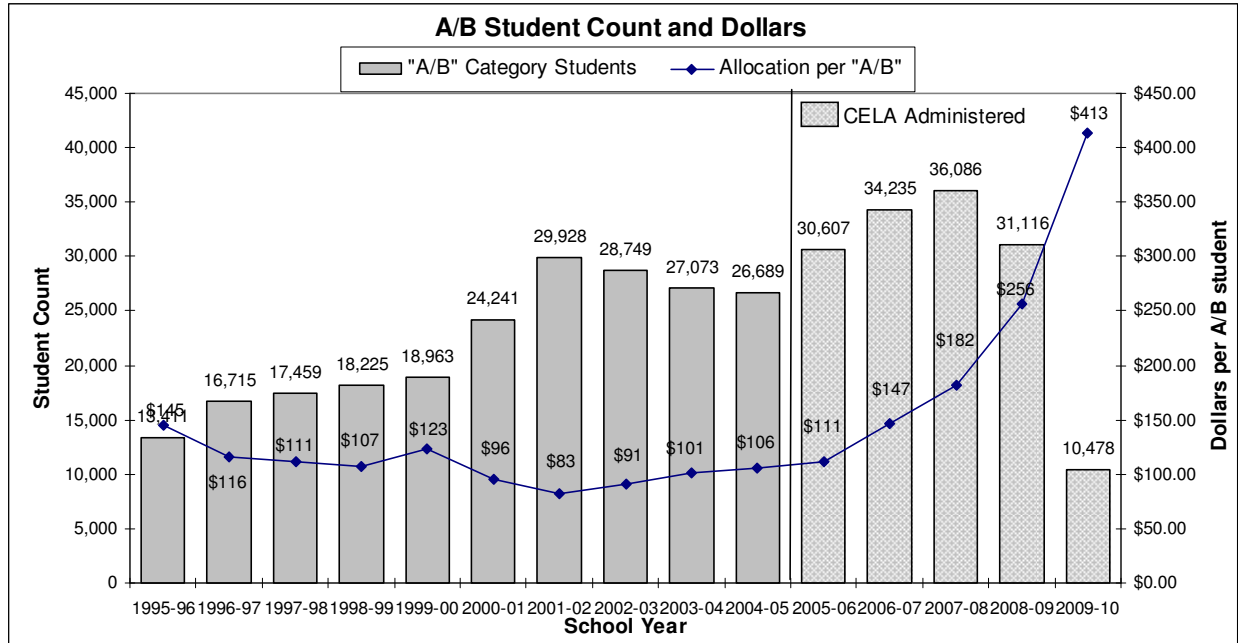
Colorado's 2009-10 funded ELPA student count is 38,247, reflecting a decrease of funded students.

ELPA Student Categories:

- **A/B** (correlates to NEP = Non-English Proficiency):
 - **A Students** comprehend or speak a language other than English and do not speak English.
 - **B Students** comprehend or speak some English, but the predominant comprehension and speech is in a language other than English.
- **C** (correlates to LEP = Limited English Proficiency):
 - **C Students** comprehend or speak English and one or more other languages and their dominant language is difficult to determine.
 - If the student's English language development and comprehension is:
 - At or below the district mean, below the national mean or equivalent on a nationally standardized test -OR-
 - Below the acceptable proficiency level on an English language proficiency test approved by the Colorado Department of Education, then, the student may be eligible for funding under the English Language Proficiency Act.

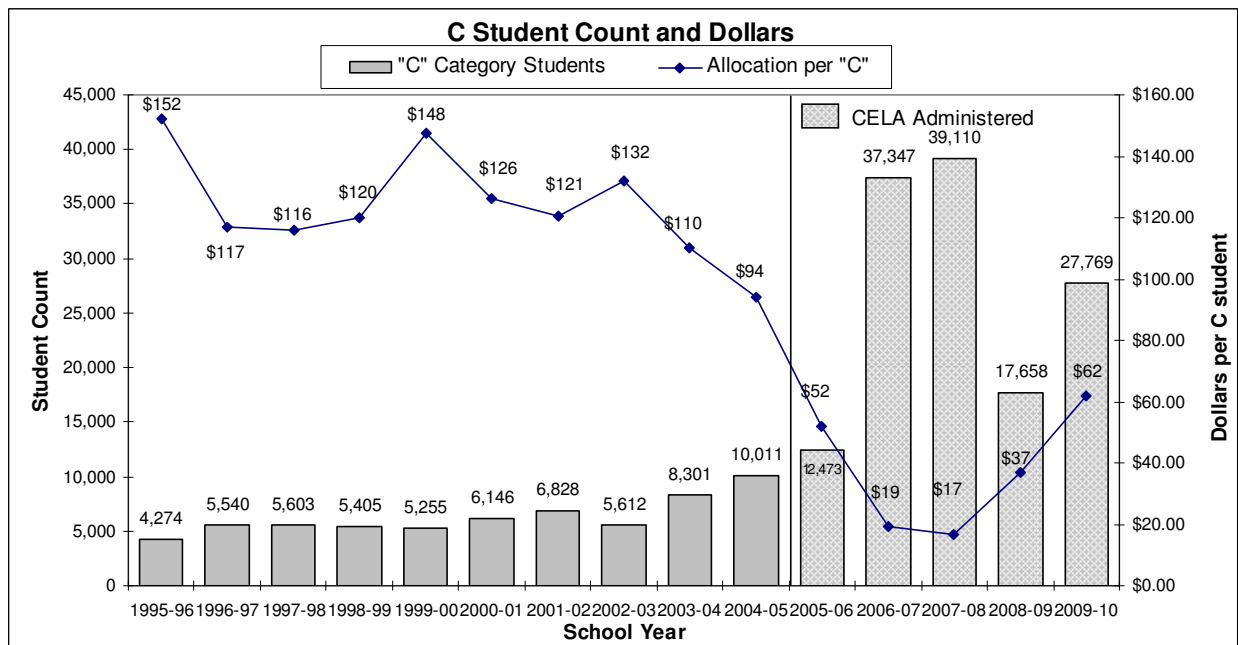
Trends in ELPA Students and Dollar Allocation

Table 3: 1995-96 to 2009-10 "A/B" Student Count & Dollars



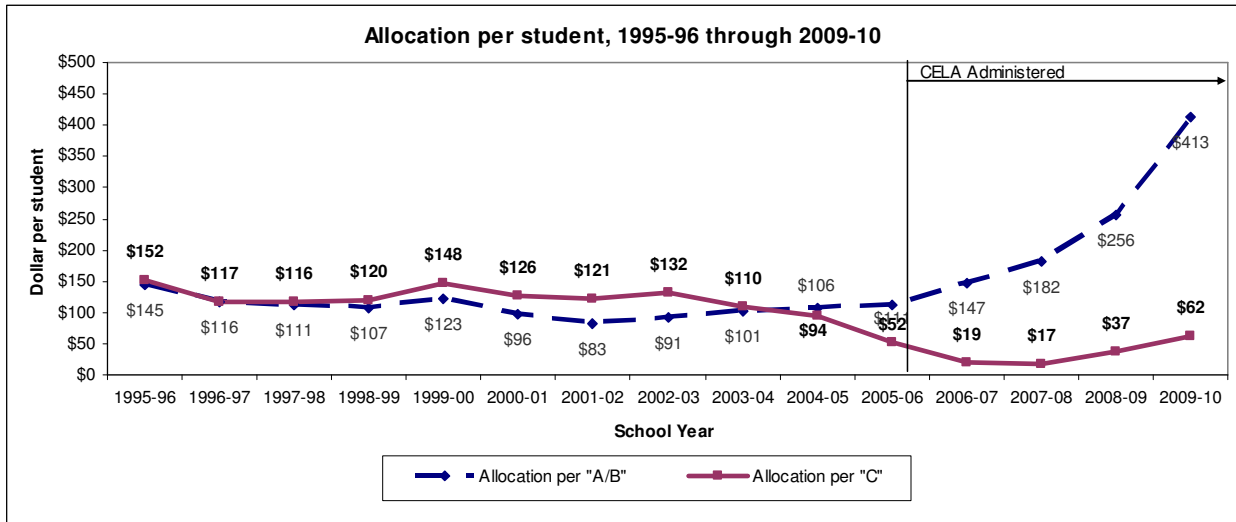
Since CELA testing began, eligible funded students have decreased.

Table 4: 1995-96 to 2009-10 "C" Student Count and Dollar Allocation



Fluctuations continue with funding and count of C students over the last 5 years.

Table 5: Fifteen Years of Trends in Dollar Allocation per ELPA Student



Over the last 6 years, funding has shifted to a A/B students, with a modest increase for C students

“In budget year 2009-10, it is estimated that the state ELPA funding amount will be provided on behalf of approximately one-half of the 100,000 identified students and will support roughly 20% to 25% of the total educational expenditures incurred by districts to address the English language proficiency needs of their students.”³

³ Understanding Colorado School Finance and Categorical Funding, Colorado Department of Education, July 2009
 Data Source: Colorado Department of Education, ELPA 10 Year State Summary, 1995-2003 and 2000-2010.
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