

## Eligibility

Students eligible for ELL assessment accommodations are students who:

1. Have been properly identified as ELLs using
  - Home Language Survey Results,
  - WIDA Access Placement Test Results (W-APT),
  - ACCESS for ELLs™ (a composite score below 4.0)
  - Additional local indicators;

### **And**

2. Have been *eligible* for ELL support services for less than five years (excluding pre-K services and Kindergarten services);\*

### **And**

3. Do not possess sufficient literacy skills in English to participate meaningfully in ISAT without ELL accommodations

\*A student initially identified as ELL in pre-K or Kindergarten is eligible for ELL accommodations through grade 5. Students not receiving language support program services due to parent/guardian refusal are considered eligible for state testing accommodations and are also subject to the five-year limit. This five-year clock stops whenever a student leaves the United States long enough to be dropped from school enrollment. It resumes upon return to the United States, including outside of Illinois. A year is treated as twelve calendar months. The first twelve calendar months following ELL identification are considered to be year one. The second twelve are year two, and so forth.

## **Scope and Exemptions for ISAT**

Components of the standard ISAT assessment in 2008-09 are reading and mathematics (grades 3-8), science (grades 4 & 7), and writing (grades 3, 5, 6, & 8). Students who meet the LEP eligibility requirements above are not required to participate in the ISAT Writing test. Since the resumption of ISAT Writing in 2006-07, ELLs satisfy the state writing requirement through their ACCESS Writing component. Students who have exited ELL services or have been eligible for services beyond five years are not exempt from ISAT Writing.

An ELL student who has attended schools in the United States for 12 months or less (i.e., enrolled in a U.S. school after February 29, 2008) may be excused from the ISAT Reading Assessment. He or she must still take ISAT Mathematics and Science (grades 4 and 7) Assessments, but is counted only for AYP participation on the School Report Card. An ELL student who first enrolled in a U.S. school *on or before* February 29, 2008 but has less than one year of attendance in U.S. schools (as defined by the district for the student's attendance center) due to temporarily leaving the country, may still be excused from the ISAT Reading Test. In no case may a student be given the ISAT Reading Assessment exemption more than one time. Districts should make a

reasonable effort to determine the extent of attendance a student has had in U.S. schools (both inside and outside of Illinois), and whether the student has ever been given this exemption. Please note that this is a policy change for 2008-2009.

The above writing and reading exemptions do not require any special denotation on the students' testing materials. They will be implemented using electronic data in the ISBE Student Information System (SIS). Please ensure those records are up-to-date.