



Illinois State Board of Education

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James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

June 23, 2017

Dear Families,

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is committed to preparing each and every child for success in college and career. We recognize you as partners in supporting your child's well-being and successful education.

Our schools use the assessment named ACCESS 2.0 to determine the language support services each English Learner (EL) needs and when to exit receiving services.

ACCESS 2.0 was recently changed to align with college-and-career readiness standards and the scores more accurately show your child's level of English proficiency. After reviewing extensive information on achievement performance and in consultation with education experts including teachers, principals and superintendents, we determined that a composite score of 4.8 on the ACCESS 2.0 is needed to exit EL classification. This score is retroactive to the 2016-17 school year.

ISBE recognizes that raising the standard for exiting ELs from language support services means some students may require services for a longer period of time. ISBE is confident this decision will better prepare EL students for success in school. The following link provides additional information on ACCESS:

https://www.wida.us/Assessment/ACCESS%202.0/documents/UnderstandingScores/WIDA_flyer_cut%20score%20parents.pdf.

If you have questions, please contact your school staff or your district's English Learner director. We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child – and all Illinois students – are well prepared for college, career, and beyond.

Very truly yours,

Jason A. Helfer, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
Illinois State Board of Education