English Learner Enrollment, Identification, and Reclassification

Multilingual/Language Development Department

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Agenda

- Federal and State Requirements
- Registration
- Screening of Potential English Learners
- Notification of Placement
- Annual English Language Development Assessment
- Reclassification
- Reminders
- Resources

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Federal and State Requirements

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Federal Requirements

- **Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964**
  - Prohibits denial of equal access to education because of language minority students' limited proficiency in English
- **Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974**
  - Defines denial of equal educational opportunity as "failure by an educational agency to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by students in an instructional program"
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1975**
  - Provides for free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation
  - Ensures special education and related services to those children
- **Title III of the ESEA of 1968 as amended by ESSA**
  - Establishes federal funding for supplemental services and programming to serve English learners
- *English learners (ELs) must be able to participate effectively in all programs and content areas*.

Landmark Cases

- Lau v. Nichols (414 U.S. 563, U.S. Supreme Court, 1974)
  - Districts must take affirmative steps to overcome educational barriers faced by the non-English speaking students in the district
- Castañeda v. Pickard (648 F.2d 989, U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit, 1981)
  - Program for ELs should be:
    - Theory: Based on "a sound educational theory"
    - Practice: "Reasonably calculated to implement effectively the educational theory adopted by the school," with adequate resources and personnel
    - Results: Evaluated as effective in overcoming language barriers after a trial period
- Plyler v. Doe (457 U.S. 202, 102 S. Ct. 2382, 72 L. Ed. 2d 786, 1982)
  - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that undocumented children have the same right as U.S. citizens and permanent residents to receive a free public education.

Illinois Codes

- Illinois School Code
  - Article 14C, Transitional Bilingual Education
  - Article 14D, Dual Language Education
  - Section 22-105, Safe Schools for All Act (Guidance on the Safe Schools for All Act)
- Illinois Administrative Code (Title 23)
  - Part 228, Transitional Bilingual Education
  - Part 680, State Seal of Biliteracy

Registration

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Home Language Survey (HLS)

- Required document for every new student
- Used to identify languages other than English (LOTE) in the home
- Two required questions cannot be altered
- Parent/guardian signature and date are required
  - Directly under the two required questions
- Must be provided in English and the LOTE of the family
  - Districts must ensure that parents/guardians can access the LOTE for both online/paper registrations.
- Districts must ensure that the parents understand the form as it is completed.

Home Language Survey Example

English

Home Language Survey

The state requires the district to collect a Home Language Survey for every new student. This information is used to count the students whose families speak a language other than English at home. It also helps to identify the students who need to be assessed for English language proficiency.

Please answer the questions below and return this survey to your child's school.

Student's Name: _____

1. Is a language other than English spoken in your home?

   Yes _____ No _____

   Which language? _____

2. Does your child speak a language other than English?

   Yes _____ No _____

   Which language? _____

If the answer to either question is yes, the law requires the school to assess your child's English language proficiency.

_____ _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Date

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Home Language Survey – Translated

- Located on the EL Entrance and Exit Procedures webpage
- Available to all districts
- The following languages are available:
  - Albanian
  - Amharic
  - Assyrian
  - Bengali
  - Bosnian
  - Bulgarian
  - Burmese
  - Cambodian
  - Chinese (Simplified)
  - Chinese (Traditional)
  - Czech
  - Dari
  - Farsi
  - German
  - Greek
  - Haitian-Creole
  - Haka Chin
  - Hindi
  - Italian
  - Japanese
  - Karen
  - Kirundi
  - Korean
  - Kyrgyz
  - Lao
  - Lithuanian
  - Malayalam
  - Marathi
  - Mongolian
  - Nepali
  - Pashto
  - Portuguese
  - Punjabi
  - Rohingya (Ruwainggya)
  - Romanian
  - Serbian (Cyrillic)
  - Serbian (Latin)
  - Somali
  - Swahili
  - Tamil
  - Telugu
  - Thai
  - Turkish
  - Uzbek
  - Yoruba

Home Language Survey Process

Step 1:

Parent/guardian completes the HLS at registration

District ensures understanding and reviews the completion of the HLS

Step 2:

District will review the following items:

- Student's temporary file
- Student's SIS record

Step 3:

District determines if the student is a potential EL based on the following information:

- Initial HLS responses
- HLS responses (current district)
- SIS history
- Temporary file
- Statewide screening/assessment history

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Screening of Potential English Learners

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Timeline of Screening Potential ELs

- Per 23 Ill. Adm. Code 228:
  - "The district shall screen the English language proficiency of each student identified through the home language survey as having a language background other than English by using the prescribed screening instrument applicable to the student's grade level (i.e., kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12), as set forth in Section 228.10, or the prescribed screening procedures identified by the preschool program. This screening shall take place **within 30 days either after the student's enrollment in the district or, for preschool programs, after the student commences participation in the program**, for the purpose of determining the student's eligibility for bilingual education services and, if eligible, the appropriate placement for the student."

Timeline of Screening Potential ELs Explanation

- Enrollment is defined as the **first day of attendance** in the district.
  - The potential ELs **cannot** be screened prior to enrollment.
    - This is a change in guidance to align with Admin Code.
    - Implementation begins SY 2027-28 for any new student in a district or students moving from pre-K to kindergarten.
    - Students screened up until the beginning of SY 2026-27 do not need to be rescreened.

Preschool English Proficiency Screening

- ISBE lists approved vendors for ELP instruments ages 3-5
  - Ballard and Tighe Pre-IPT
  - LAS Links/Data Recognition Corporation preLAS
  - Woodstock-Munoz Language Survey – English

- Screening procedures shall:
  - Consult **family** on child's English language experience
  - Be **culturally and linguistically** appropriate
  - Be **age and developmentally** appropriate
  - Be **research-based**
  - Include **multiple observations**
  - Use **multiple measures** and methods
  - Be conducted by **qualified staff** with background in preschool education and second-language acquisition

Who is administered the WIDA Screener?

- Potential ELs
  - **Any student with a Yes response** to one or both of the questions of a valid HLS
  - Not previously identified as an EL
  - Does not meet Exemption 228.15(e)(1)(C)
- **Current EL/Transition Incomplete** students with a 12+ month gap in data **and** a change of districts

Exemption Criteria for Potential ELs

- Any student who has a **Yes** response on an HLS and meets the following criteria as noted in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 228.15(c)(1)(C) are not to be screened:
  - Resides in a home where a language other then English is spoken, **and**
  - Has not been screened or identified as an English learner, **and**
  - Has been enrolled in the general program of instruction the school he or she has previously attended, **and**
  - Has been performing at or above grade level as evidenced by having met or exceeded the Illinois Learning Standards in reading and math on the student's most recent State assessment administered ... for students for whom State assessment scores are not available, a nationally normed standardized test, provided that either assessment was not administered with accommodations for English learners.

What Screener Should Be Administered?

Grade	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12	
Semester	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Grade-Cluster Form	K		1		2-3				4-5				6-8						9-12					

Source: WIDA, Online Test Administration Manual

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K-12 English Proficiency Screening Scores

Grade	Required Screening Instrument	Domains to Administer	Minimum English Proficiency Score
Kindergarten Semester 1 **ONLY**	WIDA Screener for Kindergarten	- Listening - Speaking	Oral Composite of 5.0 or higher
Kindergarten Semester 2 **AND** Grade 1 Semester 1	WIDA Screener for Kindergarten	- Listening - Speaking - Reading - Writing	Overall Composite of 5.0 or higher
Grade 1 Semester 2 **THROUGH** Grade 12	WIDA Screener - Paper - Online	- Listening - Speaking - Reading - Writing	Overall Composite of 5.0 or higher

ELD Screener Administration Recertification

- **Annual** recertification:
  - Kindergarten Screener
  - WIDA Screener Scoring for Speaking and Writing (Online and Paper)
  - Screening administrators that did not participate in screening administration for a year (or more)
- Recertification every **three years**:
  - WIDA Screener Administration (Online and Paper)

Notification of Placement

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What is a Notification of Placement?

- Letter designed to inform parents/guardians of the services for their student(s) if English proficiency was not demonstrated on the ELD Screener
  - Explains scoring from the ELD Screener
  - Explains placement (programming)
  - Explains the rights of parents/guardians
  - Explains the right of the student to receive both special education and EL services

Parent Notification Letter Updates

- Districts no longer need forms for under/over 3 years in EL programming.
- Updated forms include:
  - Selection of Language
  - K-12 Parent Notification Letter (Word and PDF)
  - Pre-Kindergarten Parent Notification Letter (Word and PDF)



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Parent Notification Letters Timeline

- **Beginning** of the school year:
  - 30 days from the first day of school
- **During** the school year:
  - 14 days from student placement into EL programming



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Notification of Placement Letters Required Content

- Program type and description
  - Explains how the EL program will **support the student**
- Expected rate of transition
- Screener/ACCESS scores
- Rate of graduation (high school only)
- Exit requirements
  - (minimum ACCESS score 4.8 overall composite)
- Special education statement
- Parent's right to visit the classroom
- Notification of right to withdraw
  - Student is always **placed first**

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Annual English Language Development Assessment

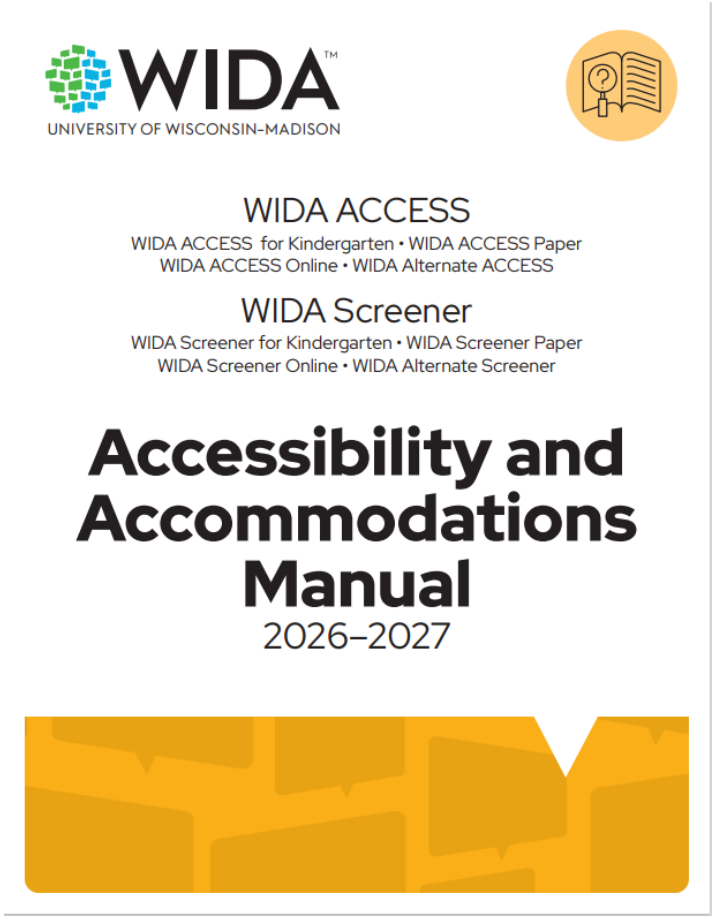
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WIDA ACCESS Testing

- The following assessments are used in Illinois:
  - WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten
  - WIDA ACCESS Online
  - WIDA ACCESS Paper
  - WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Accessibility and Accommodations Manual

- The manual is designed to support districts with accommodation considerations for ELs who are dually identified with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- The manual is updated annually.



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WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Updates

- Accessibility and Accommodations Manual
- Accessibility supports are options for all students (as applicable).
- Accommodations are for students with IEPs and 504 plans, as listed in the documentation.

Reclassification

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Reclassification with WIDA ACCESS

- Students must earn an overall composite of 4.8 or higher to reclassify with the WIDA ACCESS.
- Students who meet the reclassification criteria are automatically updated in SIS to EL Indicator – No
  - This update happens in the school year after the ACCESS is administered
  - This is applied for one year to allow school districts to update the local management system and upload to SIS the new EL Indicator for the students.
    - **If this step isn't completed by districts, the students will be pulled back into the EL Indicator – Yes.**

Reminders

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Important Reminders

- K MODEL was retired June 30, 2023, and should no longer be used.
- Screening and ELP testing cannot be refused by parents.
- Check certifications for administration of screeners and WIDA ACCESS to ensure test administrators are up to date.
- A valid HLS must be completed in order to screen a potential EL student.
- Screening takes place after enrollment of a student in a district (first day of attendance).

Resources

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Connect With the Department

Multilingual Webpage

Assigned Consultant Listing

Subscribe to ISBE Emails

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Multilingual/Language Development Department Resources Webpage

Professional Development

Language Learning Standards

Legislation and Rules

ISBE Guidance Documents and Letters

English Learners in Illinois Statistical Report

Organizations

For Parents

Refugee and Immigrant Students

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ISBE Guidance for English Learner Students – District Identification, Screening, and Data Submission

Main Topics:

- Identification procedures including HLS, screening, and parent notification
- Data submission in ISBE's Student Information System
- Frequently asked questions

Also included:

- Scenarios for enrollment
- Detailed information on HLS interpretation
- Detailed information on screening exemptions
- Many screenshots to assist with navigating SIS

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Questions?

- Our team is here to help!
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Thank you!

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