

Identification, Assessment, and Placement of Students

Identification

The Federal NCLB-Title III Act and the Illinois School Code require that each school district administer a Home Language Survey to every student entering the district's schools for the first time for the purpose of identifying students of a "non-English background". According to Illinois School Code, students of non-English background are students, whether born in the United States or born elsewhere, whose native language is other than English or who come from homes where a language other than English is spoken. The Home Language Survey must ask the following 2 questions:

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

If yes, what language? _____

2. Does this student speak a language other than English?

If the answer to either question is YES, the student is identified as having a non-English background.

Assessment

1. All students in grades 1- 12 identified through the Home Language Survey as having a non-English background must be assessed using the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) to determine eligibility for ELL Program services. Students in Kindergarten must be assessed using the WIDA Measure of Developing English Language (MODEL). The W-APT or MODEL must be administered by a teacher who is a certified ACCESS Test Administrator. This assessment must occur within 30 days of the student's

enrollment in the district at the beginning of the school year or within 14 days of enrollment during the school year.

2. If a student transfers in from another school district and has W-APT, MODEL, or ACCESS scores that are less than 12 months old, those scores can be used to determine eligibility and the student does not need to be re-assessed.

Placement

1. Students whose overall score on the W-APT is **below 4.0** are considered to be limited English proficient and **must** be enrolled in and receive services from the ELL Program.
2. Students whose overall score on the W-APT is **4.0 or above**, **may** be enrolled in the ELL Program. Other indicators may be used such as other assessment scores, samples of student work, teacher evaluation, and information from family members or school personnel.

Parental Notification

Parents must be notified by mail that their child has been placed in the ELL Program no later than 30 days after the start of the school year or 14 days during the school year. The parent notification letter is sent in English and in the home language of the student (to the extent possible).

Withdrawal by Parents

Any parent whose child is enrolled in the ELL Program has the right to withdraw his child immediately by notifying the child's school or the school district in writing of his desire to withdraw his child from the program.