



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana Local Education Agencies

From: Adam Pitt, Director of English Learners and Migrant Education

Date: July 19, 2024

Subject: Change to Exit Criteria for English Learners

This memo serves as notice of an approved amendment to the Indiana State ESSA Plan by the US Department of Education. The purpose of this amendment is to adjust the state's criteria for determining English proficiency for identified English learner (EL) students. The amendment fortifies changes detailed in the following proposal that underwent public comment during the past school year: [Proposed Changes to Indiana's English Learner Exit Criteria](#).

As required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), all states are required to establish standardized entrance and exit criteria for determining kindergarten (K) through grade 12 students' EL status. The changes being implemented to Indiana's standardized exit criteria are summarized below and detailed extensively in the accompanying [Indiana English Learner Exit Criteria Guidance](#). The approved changes will go into effect when determining students' EL status at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, utilizing the results of the 2024 WIDA ACCESS assessments.

WIDA ACCESS Changes

The previous exit criteria of a 5.0 Overall Proficiency Level (PL) or above on the annual WIDA ACCESS assessment remains in place. Students who reach that Overall PL will continue to automatically exit from EL status. The changes being instituted expand upon this existing exit criteria to allow for students in grades three or above who score within the range of 4.3-4.9 Overall PL to have a portfolio of additional evidence demonstrating their English proficiency to be reviewed by an ILP committee. The ILP committee then makes a determination to exit the student or maintain the student's EL status based on their review.

WIDA Alternate ACCESS Changes

This amendment also establishes an exit criteria for those EL students with significant cognitive disabilities who take WIDA Alternate ACCESS. An EL student who scores an Overall PL of a P1 or higher is eligible to be exited alongside a portfolio of additional evidence demonstrating their English proficiency to be reviewed by an ILP committee in conjunction with the Case Conference Committee.

It is important to note that the WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment is undergoing the final stages of a standard setting to be applied to the 2024 results. Along with this standard setting is a change in the scoring scale for Alternate ACCESS. Because of this, the exit criteria of P1 will



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soon be adjusted to align with the corresponding proficiency level within the updated scoring scale.

Due to the complicating factors of establishing an equivalent proficiency level and the timing for decision-making, students may not exit EL status using 2024 WIDA Alternate ACCESS results at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. IDOE will provide an update to its guidance prior to the release of the 2025 WIDA Alternate ACCESS results, which will define the Alternate ACCESS exit criteria proficiency level and include details on the additional evidence review process for Alternate ACCESS EL students.

Considerations for Applying New Exit Criteria for 2024-2025

The [Indiana English Learner Exit Criteria Guidance](#) defines two time frames for ILP committees to make exit determinations for eligible students via an additional evidence review: at the end of a school year after receiving results of that year's annual WIDA assessments, or at the beginning of the following school year within the required 30-day EL identification timeframe. Due to the timing of the amendment approval, ILP committee determinations based on the 2024 WIDA ACCESS results must be made at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. For determinations being made at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the 2025 WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results must be used.

Detailed Guidance and Upcoming Trainings

IDOE has provided [Indiana English Learner Exit Criteria Guidance](#) that must be followed to properly implement the new exit criteria. This guidance includes the following sections:

- Indiana English Learner Exit Criteria Defined
- 2024-2025 School Year Considerations
- Making English Learner Exit Determinations
- Assembling the ILP Committee
- Compiling Allowable Additional Evidence
- Steps for Performing an Additional Evidence Review
- Data Reporting and Documentation
- Formal Two-Year Monitoring of Exited ELs
- Compliance Monitoring and Data Review
- Appendix A: ILP Committee Decision-Making Tool

To provide support for Indiana schools as they prepare to implement exit criteria changes for the forthcoming school year, IDOE's Office of English Learners and Migrant Education (ELME) will post a recorded training on the [IDOE ELME webpage](#) which reviews the guidance and then provide technical assistance via virtual Office Hours on Thursday, July 25, and Thursday, August 1, at 3 p.m. ET. Details on the Office Hours can be found on the [EL PD Opportunities Calendar](#). Please contact [IDOE's Office of English Learners and Migrant Education](#) with any questions.