



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District /Charter Administrators and EL Coordinators

FROM: Maria Paxson, English Learner, Education Associate

SUBJECT: 2020-2021 English Learner Identification

DATE: August 27, 2020

Pursuant to the 25th modification of the State of Emergency the following standardized procedures shall be followed by all Delaware districts and charter schools in the identification of English learners.

The initial English Learner screening requirement of 14 *Del. Admin. Code* § 920.2.2 shall be suspended for the 2020-21 academic year. For the 2020-21 academic year, any student for whom a language other than English is reported on the home language survey, the school or district shall to the extent practicable will follow Delaware's statewide entrance criteria as outlined in Delaware's approved ESSA Plan and further described in Delaware's English Learner Guidebook. When appropriate, an initial in-person screening or WIDA Remote Screening assessment of English language proficiency shall be conducted as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-five (45) school days after enrollment and shall be conducted by qualified personnel trained in the administration of the assessment instrument. Upon return to in-person instruction, any student screened with the WIDA Remote Screening assessment of English language proficiency must complete the in-person screening within 25 days as outlined in Delaware's approved ESSA plan.

As such the following standardized entrance criteria shall be followed during the 2020-2021 school year.

Step 1: Delaware Home-Language Survey

- Upon enrollment of any student, the school administers the statewide home-language survey.
- Based on the results of the statewide home-language survey, the school initiates the standardized identification screening process.

Step 2: Standardized Identification Screening Process

- A staff member completes a record review process for any student whose native language is not English using the record review protocol.
- The school implements the EL identification process if the record review process suggests the student may not be proficient in English.

Step 3: Administer WIDA Screener, Kindergarten MODEL assessment or Delaware Alternative EL Identification Protocol to the extent practicable. In the event that this screen cannot be completed in person the WIDA Remote Screener shall be administered.

- Within 45 days of enrollment, the school uses the adjusted statewide identification criteria as determined by DDOE-approved WIDA language proficiency assessments to confirm a student's classification as an EL.



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- An oral proficiency level below 5.5 on the WIDA MODEL in the first semester of kindergarten; or
- A composite proficiency level below 5.0 on the W-APT, WIDA Screener, or WIDA MODEL.
- Provisional EL Status for all students who are administered the WIDA Remote Screener.

Step 4: Administer the WIDA Screener, Kindergarten MODEL or Delaware Alternative EL Identification Protocol for any student previously administered the WIDA Remote Screener

- Within 25 days of a return to in-person instruction, the school shall administer the WIDA Screener, WIDA MODEL or Delaware Alternative EL Identification Protocol.
- Student EL provisional status will be adjusted to reflect the student's EL classification based on the full in-person screening assessment.

All English learner screening data, including the remote screener and subsequent provisional English learner status must be entered into the statewide English learner database.

Additional guidance around the identification of English learners for the 2020-2021 school year can be found [here](#). Please direct questions pertaining to the identification of English learners to Maria.Paxson@doe.k12.de.us or Cary.knight@doe.k12.de.us.