

Policy Update: Screening of Multilingual/English Learners

The current Bilingual Program Guidelines include a policy on re-screening in-state transfer students who have not been assessed on the annual summative assessment within the past two years. The following adjustments are being made to that policy:

New language: If a TBIP-eligible student has not been tested on the two most recent annual English proficiency assessments, the district may choose to administer an assessment to determine current proficiency level and inform placement decision. The following options are all acceptable options for this purpose.

- A local assessment developed for the purpose of determining current proficiency and informing placement.
- WIDA MODEL (district purchased),
- WIDA Screener. Please note that students who are already identified as English learners **may not exit** EL services using the Screener regardless of their score.

Considerations for Fall 2021

Due to the instructional challenges for multilingual/English learners arising from the pandemic school closures, there is a need for districts to discriminate among the various situations which may or may not require administration of the screener. It is vital, however, that **previously qualified students are never exited from services based upon the results of the WIDA Screener***.

Students who were provisionally qualified for 2020 - 2021 as a multilingual/English learner who tested via the spring annual ELPA 21 OR who test with the WIDA Screener and demonstrate proficiency are considered the same as any student who is screened but does not qualify. Element J09, Exit Code Reason O: Student tested but did not qualify. Refer to the [CEDARS Data Manual](#) for reporting requirements and/or contact Student Information for additional assistance: asksi@k12.wa.us.



Given that there are multiple different scenarios that may be occurring with districts, the following table will provide guidance for when to screen versus when to conduct formative and/or benchmark assessments when school resumes Fall 2021:

Student Group	Assessment Requirements	Format	Deadlines
Incoming Kindergartners	New WIDA Kindergarten Screener	Paper/Pencil	Due 30 calendar days after school entry
NEW Incoming students in grades 1-12	New WIDA Screener	Online	Due 30 calendar days after school entry
Students provisionally qualified as ELs for 2020 - 2021 in grades 1-12 (who were not assessed on an ELP assessment within the past two years)	New WIDA Screener	Online	Due 30 calendar days after return to in-person schooling
Continuing EL students in grades 1-12 (who were not assessed on an ELP assessment within the past two years)	No assessment required. Districts may choose to use WIDA MODEL, WIDA Screener (students scoring proficient may NOT exit services*) or local formative assessment to ensure appropriate placement in EL services.		In a timely manner to ensure appropriate placement in services
EL students transferring in-state in grades 1-12 (who were not assessed on an ELP assessment within the past two years)	No assessment required. Districts may choose to use WIDA MODEL, WIDA Screener (students scoring proficient may NOT exit services*) or local formative assessment to ensure appropriate placement in EL services.		In a timely manner to ensure appropriate placement in services
EL students transferring from out of state in grades 1-12	New WIDA Screener (unless they have a WIDA Screener or ACCESS test on file from out of state within the past two years)	Online	Due 30 calendar days after school entry

*Please note: Students who take the screener as already identified English learners cannot exit the ELD program through a proficient score on the screener. They will have to take the annual assessment to exit program.