**HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY (HLS)**

**INFORMATION**

1. A new HLS is required when **ANY** student enrolls in a Local Education Agency (LEA/School) for the first time **or** returns to an LEA after an absence of more than one year.

1. Upon request, an LEA must be able to provide a valid, completed HLS for ANY currently enrolled student or any formerly enrolled student that attended the LEA in the past seven years.

1. An HLS completed upon initial enrollment in an LEA may “follow” the student for the duration of their enrollment in that LEA.

1. If a parent or guardian does not return or declines to complete the HLS, LEA personnel must attach a brief written description of the situation on an HLS form and place it in the student’s cumulative folder.

1. HLS responses do not determine a student’s English Learner (EL) status. Only an approved state or WIDA screening assessment (K Screener, Screener) may be used to assign EL status and only the summative WIDA assessment (ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS) may be used to move a student out of EL status.

1. At local discretion and with appropriate documentation, a student may be administered a state or WIDA screening tool ( K Screener, Screener) regardless of HLS responses if LEA staff observe that an unmistakable linguistic barrier that limits the student’s access to classroom instruction.

1. WIDA information is available at wida.wisc.edu/membership/consortium/bie.

**BIE WIDA Contacts**

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**Understanding Home Language Survey Terms**

**EL -**In general terms, an English learner (EL) is a student who is in the process of acquiring English proficiency and has a first language other than English or in addition to English. The EL status remains with the student until s/he shows English proficiency enabling the student to:

* Listen, speak, read, and write in English
* Be successful in the classroom setting where there is language instruction
* Be able to actively participate in his/her classroom, school, community, and beyond.

**LEA –**Local Education Agency also called a school.

**WIDA K Screener –**an individually administered paper/pencil test that helps educators identify student EL status.

**WIDA Screener** – an English language proficiency assessment given to new students in grades 1-12 to identify English

 language learners.

**WIDA ACCESS** – The summative (end-of-year) required assessment for all EL identified students.

**Linguistic Barrier** – A misunderstanding or inability to comprehend communication in one of three messages sent.

1. What the sender **thought** he communicated (meant);
2. What the sender **actually** communicated (said); and
3. What the receiver of the communication **received** (heard).