

This document contains guidance on the identification and placement process for newly arrived English language learners in your state. WIDA and your state education agency have worked together to provide this outline of policies, procedures, assessment options, test administrator training requirements, and criteria for placement in ELL services. This document is updated each spring and throughout the year per SEA request.

For questions related to state policy, please contact:

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For questions related to WIDA's website, resources, or assessments, please contact the WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us or (866) 276-7735.

Initial Assessment and Identification

Questions/Topic	State-specific Guidance
Process Overview	<p>English learners (ELs) are identified through the Language Use Survey and administration of an English language proficiency screener.</p> <p>In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Remote Learning English Learner Identification Procedures are in place indefinitely.</p>
Timelines	<p>English learners must be identified and placed within thirty days of enrollment from the beginning of the school year or within two weeks of enrollment during the school year.</p> <p>In addition to the Language Use Survey, schools may wish to conduct a family interview in order to gain pertinent information about the student's background in order to design the most appropriate placement and program of services.</p>

Initial Assessment and Identification

Language Use Survey	<p>All schools/districts are required to use the Language Use Survey provided by the Maine Department of Education. The Language Use Survey is administered to every student enrolling for the first time in a Maine school/district.</p> <p>Schools are required to provide translation/interpretation to families who desire it. The Maine Department of Education provides the Language Use Survey translated into 25 of the most commonly spoken languages in the state. The Language Use Survey and a decision tree that indicates what steps to take depending on the answers provided by the parent/guardian can be found on the Maine DOE website.</p> <p>Please refer to the Language Use Survey training video for more details.</p> <p>For additional guidance on English learner identification, see Serving Maine's English Learners</p>
State Approved Assessments	<p>PreK/Preschool: Schools may use their choice of psychometrically-valid English language proficiency screener. If a low-incidence SAU does not yet have a screener appropriate for pre-K, please contact April Perkins at april.perkins@maine.gov to borrow a PreLAS test kit temporarily.</p> <p>Kindergarten through 1st Semester 1st Grade students: Kindergarten W-APT or Kindergarten MODEL.</p> <p>The new WIDA Kindergarten Screener will be released on March 31, 2021. Maine school administrative units (SAUs) will be permitted to begin using it immediately, or they may delay implementation until August 1, 2021. Those delaying implementation may continue to use either Kindergarten W-APT or Kindergarten MODEL until July 31, 2021. After August 1, 2021, all Maine SAUs will be required to use the Kindergarten Screener.</p> <p>2nd Semester 1st Grade through Grade 12: WIDA Screener Online.</p> <p>Students with disabilities are eligible for accommodations as described in the student's IEP.</p>
Paper Based Screener Costs	<p>WIDA Screener Paper is only an approved option as an accommodation.</p> <p>The WIDA Screener Paper is a purchased test and schools must contact the Maine Department of Education to request the WIDA Screener Paper.</p> <p>For more information about the purchase of Kindergarten MODEL materials, go to the WIDA Store.</p>

Initial Assessment and Identification

Identification/Placement Criteria	Identification Criteria:		
	Grade	Screening Assessment	Minimum Score Required to be Non-EL
	Pre-k	ELP screener of the SAU's choice	at the discretion of the SAU*
	1 st semester K	WIDA Screener for Kindergarten	Oral Language Proficiency Level 4.5
	2 nd semester K/1 st semester 1 st grade	WIDA Screener for Kindergarten	Overall Composite Proficiency Level 4.5
	1 st semester K	Kindergarten W-APT	Listening and Speaking 29
	2 nd semester K/1 st semester 1 st grade	Kindergarten W-APT	Listening and Speaking 29 Reading 14 Writing 17
	1 st semester K	Kindergarten MODEL	Oral Language Proficiency Level 6.0**
	2 nd semester K/1 st semester 1 st grade	Kindergarten MODEL	Overall Composite Proficiency Level 6.0**
	2 nd semester 1 st grade-12 th grade	WIDA Screener Online	Overall Composite Proficiency Level 4.5

*It is recommended to set high expectations for pre-k students in order to ensure that all bilingual/multilingual students who may benefit from English language support services are identified.

**Note that the Kindergarten MODEL minimum score is higher than grades 1-12 because MODEL is scored using an outdated score scale. WIDA Screener Online is aligned to the current proficiency levels on ACCESS for ELLs.

Initial Assessment and Identification

Other Useful Resources or Information

Parents/guardians must be notified of their student's placement in English language support programs within thirty days of enrollment from the beginning of the school year or within two weeks, mid-year.

If a student is not identified as an EL at the time of enrollment, post-enrollment identification is possible based on teacher observations, amended Language Use Survey information (see "School Use Only" section), and ELP screening.

If the correctness of a student's EL identification is in question, a [Request for Change in EL Identification](#) may be submitted to the Maine Department of Education by the student's district superintendent.

ELs who were enrolled in a United States school for the first time on or after March 1, 2018 have a one-time exemption from Maine's ELA/Literacy assessment only, if they participated in the ACCESS for ELLs during the testing window or were administered a WIDA screener if enrolled after the ACCESS for ELLs testing window. There is no exemption from the mathematics or science assessment for English learners.

ELs with learning disabilities are eligible for testing accommodations as described in their IEPs.

See [Administrative Letter 27](#) for an overview of federal and Maine requirements for serving ELs.

Test Administrator Training and Certification

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
Test Administrator Qualifications	<p>Maine does not require ESOL-endorsement to administer screening assessments. Any WIDA-certified test administrator may give the WIDA Screener Online to students.</p>
Test Administrator Training Requirements	<p>The test administrators must pass WIDA certification requirements for the assessments they are responsible for administering. Maine recommends that Speaking and Writing be revisited annually. Certification must be completed during the current test period in order to be valid.</p> <p><u>WIDA Screener</u> Test administrators must pass the following certification quizzes (for the appropriate grade levels) with a score of 80% or higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking Quiz Grades 1-5 • Speaking Quiz Grades 6-12 • Screener Writing Quiz Grades 1-5 • Screener Writing Quiz Grades 6-12 <p><u>Kindergarten Screening Assessments</u></p> <p>Kindergarten Screener [to be released 3/31/21]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the training course and achieve 80% or higher on certification quiz <p>For Kindergarten W-APT [permitted through 7/31/21] test administrators should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View the K W-APT Training Webinar • Review scored student writing samples • Review the Test Administrator Manual <p>For Kindergarten MODEL [permitted through 7/31/21], test administrators should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the K MODEL Test Administrator Manual and Training CD-ROM/DVD

Test Administrator Training and Certification

Website Permissions	<p>WIDA Secure Portal (portal.wida.us) WIDA Screener or K W-APT permissions: Test administrators can contact their District Assessment Coordinator or the WIDA Client Services Center.</p> <p>WIDA AMS (DRC) (wida-ams.us) Educator Scoring for WIDA Screener: Test administrators should contact their District Assessment Coordinator.</p>
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ELL Program Requirements – Services & Support

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
ELL Services or Program Requirements	<p>There are no specific requirements as to the type of program or amount of student support to be provided, as services must be tailored to individual student needs. Parent/guardian approval is not needed but it is strongly recommended to involve parents/guardians in the development of the student’s programming and take their preferences into account.</p> <p>Schools are required to provide English learners (ELs) with an effective language support program that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is evidence-based; • is regularly evaluated and modified as needed; • enables ELs to meaningfully access grade-level curricula while acquiring English; • is designed and implemented by qualified, 660 ESL-endorsed staff; • does not unnecessarily separate ELs from their non-EL peers; • does not place ELs in a facility below the standard provided to their non-EL peers; and • does not provide ELs with educational materials below the standard provided to their non-EL peers.
Declining Services	<p>Parents/guardians may decline English language support services for their student. However, schools are still obligated by federal law to ensure that all students have meaningful access to the curriculum. Therefore, if an EL’s level of English proficiency denies him/her meaningful access to the curriculum, appropriate supports must be provided. If parents/guardians wish to refuse services, alternative service options should be offered. See Administrative Letter 27 for further details about a parent or guardian’s right to refuse services.</p> <p>Maine does not have an opt-out policy for any state or federally required assessments. All students are required to participate in these assessments. All ELs are required to take ACCESS for ELLs annually.</p>