

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>When a newly enrolled student has responded with a language other than English on any part of the Home Language Survey (HLS), s/he is screened for ESL services with the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, or the WIDA Screener, Grades 1-12. The screener is given only once in the educational career of the EL. The scores on this screener determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the student will be classified as EL (coded as “L” or “W” in EIS), and • The minimum amount of service the EL will receive initially
Timelines	<p>Students should be placed and begin receiving services as soon as possible. TN advises that screening takes place the first week they are in enrolled in school and it is in session. ELs must be screened and served within 30 days of enrollment.</p> <p>Before screening, there is at a minimum a Home Language Survey (HLS). An interview with the parents and child is also advisable.</p>

Initial Assessment and Identification

Home Language Survey	<p>There is a state-mandated HLS in the TN State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19. This is done at enrollment. The HLS should ideally be administered only once in the student's K-12 academic career.</p> <p>Any answer other than English to any question is an indication that the student should be screened with a WIDA Screener.</p>
State Approved Assessments	<p>Kindergarten: WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Grades 1-12th: WIDA Screener Online These are the only screeners which may be currently used in TN.</p> <p>TN is currently working on a screening process for EL SWDs that cannot access the WIDA Screener or the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten.</p>
Paper Based Screener Costs	<p>TN is an online assessment state. The use of WIDA Screener Paper should be very limited or used as an accommodation for EL SWDs, for example.</p> <p>LEAs pay for WIDA Screener Paper.</p> <p>*If districts want additional materials, they are to contact the SEA who will give them permission.</p> <p>For more information, go to the WIDA Store.</p>
Identification/Placement Criteria	<p>Exit Criteria: Students who score an overall composite proficiency level of 4.4 or higher and a literacy composite proficiency level of 4.2 or higher on ACCESS for ELLs shall be exited for ESL direct services.</p> <p>For ELs who are taking Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, students who score an overall composite PL of P1 or higher and a literacy composite of P1 or higher on Alternate ACCESS for ELLs shall be exited for ESL direct services.</p>

Initial Assessment and Identification

	<p>Identification Criteria: Please see TN State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 for Identification and Placement Criteria.</p>
<p>Other Useful Resources or Information</p>	<p>LEAs are required to notify parents as outlined in ESSA.</p> <p>LEAs are responsible to input of their own ESL data into their SIS packages that upload to EIS regularly. The fidelity of that data is the responsibility of the LEA.</p> <p>All students in TN are expected to have instruction differentiated for their needs. Therefore, students who did not initially qualify would have specific needs met through differentiation and RTI. If the student is not successful with meaningful differentiation, s/he may be considered for ESL services. This process would begin with a discussion with the parents.</p> <p>Newcomers are ELs who have not completed one full year of study in a U.S. school. Newcomers take assessment the first year, but are excluded from growth until the 2nd year and from proficiency until the 3rd year.</p> <p>A former EL can only be reassessed for the ESL program if s/he has had meaningful interventions and the district has an approved procedure for reclassification.</p> <p>EL SWDs must have all meaningful accommodations.</p>

Test Administrator Training and Certification

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
Test Administrator Qualifications	Must be an EL Certified teacher, unless approved by SEA.
Test Administrator Training Requirements	<p>To be certified to score WIDA Screener, TAs must annually complete the required certification quizzes with passing scores of 80% or higher on the relevant quiz(zes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking Grades 1-5 • Speaking Grades 6-12 • Writing Grades 1-5 • Writing Grades 6-12 <p>TAs must be certified for the grade levels they will be administering to. All training and certification quizzes are located on the WIDA Secure Portal.</p> <p>WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: TAs must complete annually the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten training course, located in the WIDA Secure Portal, and pass both certification quizzes with an 80% or higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Oral Language • WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Literacy
Website Permissions	<p>WIDA Secure Portal (portal.wida.us) WIDA Screener for Kindergarten and WIDA Screener: Test Administrators should contact District Test Coordinator for permissions.</p> <p>WIDA AMS (DRC) (wida-ams.us) Educator Scoring for WIDA: Test Administrators should contact District Test Coordinator for permissions.</p>

ELL Program Requirements – Services & Support

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
ELL Services or Program Requirements	If a student will receive ESL services, districts should follow the TN State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-19 .
Declining Services	<p>The student is coded as “W” in EIS for having waived direct services. The instruction then becomes the responsibility of the general education teacher. The school and district have the responsibility to ensure that the general education teacher is adequately trained.</p> <p>All “L” and “W” coded students in TN must be annually assessed with the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs.</p>