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Independent School Participation in English Learner Identification and Assessment

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline guidelines related to independent school participation in the screening and assessment of English Learners. This is a general overview and does not address other aspects of Title III proportionate share.

Title III Participation and EL Identification

Independent schools may choose to participate or decline participation in equitable services for federal Title III programs. Independent schools who choose to participate in Title III programs must have appropriate processes in place for identification including:

- Use of the State=Mandated Home Language Survey
- An English Language Proficiency (ELP) Screening Assessment
- Annual ELP summative testing of students for identified English Learners.

Districts and independent schools may collaborate to select appropriate testing instruments for both screening and summative assessment, but the WIDA Screener and Summative assessment are not available for this purpose. According to [federal non-regulatory guidance](#), ELP testing instruments selected by private schools need to be valid, reliable, and utilize objective criteria that would be comparable to the statewide WIDA ACCESS test.

The following is a list of some commercially available ELP testing instruments. These are provided for illustrative purposes only and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement from the AOE.

- Language Assessment Scales (LAS) Links
- Language Proficiency Test Series (LPTS)
- Test of English Language Learning (TELL)
- Woodcock-Muñoz Language Survey

As the identification and assessment of English Learners is required for participation in Title III programs, the use of Title III funds for identification and assessment is prohibited by the supplement not supplant provision.

LEA Responsibilities



During yearly consultation, districts should assist independent schools in establishing appropriate processes for identification and yearly ELP summative testing of students with EL status. This document does not outline other ELP responsibilities related to Title III Equitable services.

Contact Information

For questions about data and assessment, contact Heidi Jo Bartlett, ELP Assessment Coordinator, at heidijo.bartlett@vermont.gov

For questions about supporting EL students or Title III, contact Stephanie Vogel at stephanie.vogel@vermont.gov

For questions about equitable services and consultation, contact Deborah Bloom, Equitable Services Ombuds, at deborah.bloom@vermont.gov

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