Procedures for Identifying English Language Learner (ELL) Students

Upon enrollment, if any of the three questions on the Primary Home Language Other Than English (PHLOTE) Home Language Survey form or the school enrollment form are answered with any language other than English, the student is identified as a PHLOTE. The three questions are as follows:

1. What is the primary language used in the home regardless of the language spoken by the student?
2. What is the language most often spoken by the student?
3. What is the language that the student first acquired?

All new PHLOTE students must be assessed using the state-approved English language proficiency assessment. [Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA)]

Requirements for Assessment and Parental Notification:

If the LEA receives Title III funds:
- Within 30 days for those students who enroll at the beginning of the school year, or
- Within two weeks of a student’s enrollment in school after the first 30 days of school

If the LEA does NOT receive Title III funds:
- Within 60 days for those students who enroll at the beginning of the school year, or
- Within 30 school days for those students who enroll after the first 60 days of school

20 U.S.C. §7012(a)(d) and A.A.C. R7-2-306(C)(4)

Student tests proficient in English:
- SAIS classification: Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP)
- No further assessment is required
- Mainstream classroom placement

Parents accept services. A.R.S. §15-756(C)

Parents decline ELL services.
- Sign a Parent Request for Student Withdrawal
- SAIS: Withdrawn by parent request
- Student is placed in a mainstream classroom


The student continues to be reassessed annually at the end of the school year until the student is proficient in English. A.R.S. §15-756.05

If the student does not test proficient in English:
- SAIS classification: English Language Learner (ELL)
- Parental notification (see above)
- LEA places student in an ELL Program

Student is reassessed at the end of the school year. A.R.S. §15-756.05

If the student does test proficient in English:
- SAIS classification: Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP)
- Place in a mainstream classroom
- Monitored for two years


Assessment history:
- RFEP
- CFEP Y1

Monitor as required A.R.S. §15-756.06

Current assessment overall proficiency level:
- Not proficient

Current assessment overall proficiency level:
- Not proficient

A.R.S. §15-756.05

Note: Check the SDELL 70 Report through the ADE Common Logon to see if the student has one of the following:
- an assessment history in SAIS
- and/or a current assessment in SAIS

Parental Choice

A.R.S. §15-756.05

A.R.S. §15-756.06

Arizona Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition Services (June 2013)