Arizona Department of Education

Student Achievement and Educator Excellence Division &
Office of English Language Acquisition Services

English Learners Identification Guidance

As LEAs begin the thoughtful transition and begin the 2020-2021 school year, ADE would like to provide guidance for Arizona's English Language Assessments and the administration of the AZELLA Placement Tests (Kindergarten through Grade 12).

1. Administer AZELLA Placement Tests with updated AZELLA Test Administration Guidelines.
    a. AZELLA will be administered in-person. At this time, there are no provisions for administering the placement tests remotely. Test security must be kept at the forefront of test administrations. The AZELLA Placement Tests should be administered in a secure test environment at a physical location/official LEA building. The AZELLA Placement Tests were designed to be administered in a standard manner (i.e., in-person, paper tests for KPT and Stage II and online administration for Stages III-V). Special Paper Versions will continue to be allowed if approved.
    b. A secure document containing specific guidance for the administration of the Kindergarten Placement Test, Stage II Placement Test, and Stages III – V online Placement Tests will be sent via email to the designated AZELLA District Test Coordinator of each district or charter and will also be available in PearsonAccess[next].
    c. If an eligible student is not administered a Kindergarten Placement Test by December 15, 2020, the student must wait until the Reassessment window opens in the spring of 2021. During the Reassessment window, the student should be administered the Stage 1 Reassessment.

2. If your LEA is unable to administer a placement test with the updated test administration guidance mentioned above,
    a. The LEA will apply temporary entrance procedures that permit the presumption of EL identification based on a home language survey and rely on appropriate follow up, discussion with parents and/or students (as appropriate) in order to provide needed language services. Additional guidance is provided in the following link. *Providing Services to English Learners during the COVID-19 Outbreak*

3. Accountability
    a. The State Board of Education (SBE) will make any final decisions regarding the accountability for the 2020-2021 school year. ADE Accountability is proceeding with the approved continuation of the previous model for the current school year foregoing any changes by the SBE.

4. Entrance Requirements
    a. "LEAs may need to adjust the standardized entrance procedures (screen every student within 30 days of enrolling) temporarily to allow for the use of online resources to identify EL students as quickly as possible in order to start services for those students. LEAs could apply temporary entrance procedures that permit the presumption of EL identification based on a home language survey and rely on appropriate follow up, including but not limited to discussion with parents and/or students (as appropriate) in order to provide needed language services, if the alternative is failing to provide any English language services to students in need of them." Additional guidance is provided in #4 in the following link. *Providing Services to English Learners during the COVID-19 Outbreak*

5. Instructional Considerations
    a. The requirements outlined in SB1014, 120 minutes per day or 600 minutes per week of ELD instruction for K-5 and 100 minutes per day or 500 minutes per week of ELD instruction for 6-12, should be planned for and implemented in school year 2020-2021 to the extent possible. Several SEI Overview webinars have been offered for administrators, providing an overview of each of the models and instructional frameworks. We have also scheduled webinars specifically for teachers during the months of June and July. Please refer to the OELAS website for dates and times.

        o Guidance on SEI Implementation is provided in the following link. *SEI Program Model Implementation Guide*

        o An updated list of questions and responses regarding SEI, documents, and supports is provided in the following link. *OELAS: School Closure FAQs*

        o The USDOE has also put out a list of questions and responses regarding EL services during the COVID-19 outbreak that is provided in the following link. *Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak*

6. Data Integrity - Coming Soon!
7. Funding for ELs – Coming Soon!