

## **EXIT PROCEDURES AND ASSESSMENTS**

The required statewide exit criteria replaces previous state guidance and is in compliance with Federal NCLB regulations. (2006/2007)

### **Exit Criteria for Pennsylvania's English Language Instructional Programs for English Language Learners per PDE:**

The exit criteria provided below for English Language Learners (ELLs) represent valid and reliable evidence of a student's English language proficiency to exit from the English language instructional program. Every LEA (Local Education Authority) must include the following exit criteria in the LEA Program Plan for ELLs.

In order to meet the required State exit criteria for Pennsylvania's English language instructional programs for ELLs, LEAs must use both of the required exit criteria listed below. In addition, LEA's must ensure that students, meet one of the two additional exit criteria provided below to exit from the English language instructional program:

#### **Required Exit Criteria:**

1. Minimum score of BASIC on the annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

#### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:**

- For students transferring from other states, out-of-state academic achievement assessment results may be considered when the academic proficiency level is comparable to BASIC on the PSSA.
- For students who are in a grade that is not assessed with the PSSA, LEAs must use each of the remaining criteria listed below to exit students.

2. Minimum score of proficient on all Keystone subject area tests at the secondary level as required by the PA Dept. of Education

3. A composite proficiency score of >5.0 on a Tier C WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® assessment (see Items A and B below for cutoff score flexibility)

A. Following the scoring criteria in the table below, the W-APT™ may be administered between April and June to students who scored between 4.5 and 4.9 for program exit on the

annual administration of the ACCESS for ELLs® in order to demonstrate sufficient progress to justify exit.

**NOTE: The W-APT™ may ONLY be administered to a student once in any school year.**

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>ACCESS Score</u>	<u>Required W-APT Scores*</u>
<b>K</b>	4.6-4.9	Cutoff scores flexibility not available for Kindergarten
<b>1-5</b>	4.6-4.9	5.0 in each domain
<b>6-8</b>	4.7-4.9	5.0 in each domain
<b>9-12</b>	4.8-4.9	5.0 in each domain

*\* A student must score 5.0 in each domain (listening, speaking, reading and writing). A composite proficiency score will not be used.*

B. A score of PROFICIENT on the reading PSSA can be used along with all other required criteria outlined in this policy to justify exit for students who achieve a composite proficiency score of 4.5 to 4.9 on the annual administration of the ACCESS for ELLs®. In this case, W-APT™ scores are not necessary to demonstrate progress from the time of ACCESS for ELLs® administration to the end of the school year.

### **Additional Exit Criteria:**

1. Final grades of C or better in core subject areas (Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies).
2. Scores on district-wide assessments that are comparable to the BASIC performance level on the PSSA. This is for students in Kindergarten, First and Second grades.

### **Composite Proficiency Scores**

ACCESS for ELLs® proficiency scores, as presented on the teacher report, consist of a whole number followed by a decimal. The whole number indicates the student's proficiency level (1.0 = Entering, 5.0 = Bridging). The decimal, ranging from 1-9, represents the progress within the proficiency level that the student achieved. For example, 4.0 is the lowest score in the Expanding proficiency level, while 4.9 is the highest score before a student progresses into the Bridging proficiency level.

### **ACCESS for ELLs® Tiers and scoring caps**

The ACCESS for ELLs® assessment is broken into 3 tiers (A, B, or C) at each grade level cluster. Scores for the Tier A assessment are capped at 4.0. Scores for the Tier B assessment are capped at 5.0. The Tier C assessment is the only assessment on which a student can achieve a score from 1.0 to 6.0 in all domains. This applies only to the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment, the Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs® is not tiered.

#### ACCESS for ELLs® Tier Requirement for Exit

Only scores above 5.0 on a Tier C ACCESS for ELLs® assessment will be acceptable for exit.

An Alternate ACCESS for ELL's assessment is available for students with severe academic disabilities. It is administered if the student qualifies to take the **PASA test in lieu of the PSSA.**

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### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

The ESL teacher notifies parents by letter when their child enters the ESL program. Parents are encouraged to get involved; they are invited to attend an ESL open house (Back to School Night) which is held in the fall of each school year. ESL teachers are available during parent conferences as needed. Information to aid families whose first language is not English is available to parents. Translation and interpretive services are provided as needed.

When the student exits the program, the dates and status are logged into the district ELL database and the parents are notified. Exited students are monitored for two years.