



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
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MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-052

TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Principals
EL Coordinators

FROM: Lisa Weigel, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: April 24, 2017

SUBJECT: Exit Criteria for ELs

CHANGE TO EXIT CRITERIA FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Every year Wyoming's English Learners (ELs) in grades K-12 take the [WIDA ACCESS 2.0](#) test, which determines whether ELs exit from EL programming. Up until now, exit criteria required both a minimum overall composite proficiency level of 5.0, and minimum proficiency levels of 4.0 on all four language domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing).

Due to WIDA's standard-setting process, the bar has been raised for what constitutes a given proficiency level. This change takes effect this school year and will be factored into the score reports that districts and schools receive on May 2, 2017. This change potentially could result in a significant drop in the amount of students that are eligible for program exit. Coupled with the recent switch to an online testing platform with ACCESS 2.0, these changes prompted a review of the current exit criteria.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) took this as an opportunity to analyze research and proficiency level concordance data from WIDA, as well as statewide data from both last year's ACCESS 2.0 and statewide summative testing (PAWS) to recalibrate exit criteria. Starting this year, the single exit criterion used in Wyoming for EL program exit will be a minimum overall composite proficiency level of 4.6. No requirement will be in place for domain proficiency levels.

As data is collected and analyzed from the recently initiated ACCESS 2.0 and from the new statewide summative assessment which will be administered for the first time next year, the WDE will continue to maintain a critical eye on exit criteria for ELs.

More information on these changes will be available soon to applicable staff, such as EL coordinators and teachers.

For more information, contact Will Woods, English Learner / Foreign Language Consultant, at 307-777-5217 or will.woods@wyo.gov.