

MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-130

TO: School District Superintendents
Principals (K-12)
Curriculum Directors
Instructional Facilitators & Coaches
EL District Coordinators & Teachers

FROM: Kari Eakins, Chief Policy Officer

DATE: November 15, 2021

SUBJECT: ACCESS for ELLs and ALT ACCESS for ELLs Participation Requirement

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT FOR ACTIVE ELS

All English Learners (EL), in kindergarten through grade 12, are expected to take the ACCESS for ELLs or the ALT ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency Assessment annually to fulfill the federal and state requirement of measuring English Learners' progress in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There is no assessment exemption for an Active EL, or for students who "opt-out" of the English Learner program or services.

Upon achieving the "English Proficient" score (Proficiency Criteria included below), ELs are no longer identified as "Active EL Students" and will not be required to take the annual ACCESS Assessment. Districts must monitor the academic progress of former EL students for four years to ensure that: the students have not been prematurely exited; any academic deficits they incurred as a result of participation in the EL program have been remedied; and they are meaningfully participating in the standard instructional program comparable to their never-EL peers.

The 95% participation rate requirement is calculated in a school's accountability score for the English Language Proficiency (ELP) indicator. This rule mirrors the rule for the participation rate on the state achievement test (i.e., WY-TOPP). A description of the participation rate rule can be found in the

2021 Implementation Handbook. The one additional non-participant rule, which is described in the handbook, will also apply to EL testing to ensure that no school is held to a participation rate above 95%.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY CRITERIA ON THE ELP ASSESSMENT

- **ACCESS for ELLs Exit Criteria** – 4.6 or better Composite Score **and** 4.3 or better on Literacy. More information can be found on the [Cut Score](#) page.
- **ALT ACCESS for ELLs Exit Criteria** – A composite performance level score of P1 or higher.

For more information, contact Antoinette Hallam, EL Consultant, at 307-777-5217, or antoinette.hallam@wyo.gov.