



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Guidance on Program Exit

English Language Learners in North Dakota
Office of Indian/Multicultural Education
(701) 328-1876

February 2016

Kirsten Baesler
State Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction
600 East Boulevard Avenue #201
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440
www.nd.gov/dpi

The Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sex (wages) or genetics in its programs and activities. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, contact Robert Marthaller, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 201, Bismarck, ND 58505-0440, phone: (701) 328-2267.

Background

An English Language Learner (ELL) is ready to exit from an ELL program, when he/she has the linguistic ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where English is the language of instruction. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) worked with the North Dakota ELL Program Advisory Committee (ELLPAC) to clearly define the exit criteria in the spring and summer of 2010. This document contains guidance for North Dakota school districts on consistent exit criteria procedures for exiting students from an ELL program and for recording and maintaining the student data.

Prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the method of determining the readiness of a student to exit from the ELL program was based on an overall English proficiency test score and a subjective evaluation of a district team. This method allowed for inconsistency across the state.

In May of 2010, the ELLPAC made a recommendation to implement more consistent exit criteria. The committee looked at the ACCESS scores of approximately 50 students who fell at or above the previous (4.5 Overall Proficiency Level) exit criteria. Upon data review, the ELLPAC committee members recommended the following exit criteria.

English Language Learner Program Exit Criteria

The exit criteria are based on the scores from the annual English language proficiency assessment (ACCESS). To exit an ELL program, a student's ACCESS scores must meet a minimum level in each of the following areas:

Minimum Overall (Composite) Proficiency Level Score: 5.0

Minimum Proficiency Level Scores on each of the four subtest assessments:

Reading:	3.5
Writing:	3.5
Listening:	3.5
Speaking:	3.5

These criterion are subject to change for the new ACCESS 2.0.

Guidance on Exiting from an English Language Learner Program

The State Automated Reporting System (STARS) includes an “Exit Date” field in the record of every ELL student. The “Exit Date” represents the date a student has attained the English proficiency level that qualifies the student to exit the ELL program.

Note: exiting from the ELL program does not preclude the district from making special provisions or accommodations for the student to continue to improve on their English proficiency skills. However, for the purposes of North Dakota tracking of ELL students, the student is no longer recorded as an active student in the ELL program.

The “Exit Date” is an important statistic in determining the official number of current students in the program for proper tracking and allocation of ELL program funding. Since North Dakota began using the ACCESS assessment, the NDDPI loads the assessment scores into STARS. Districts receive printed copies of the scores from the test vendor and some districts choose to import the data file from STARS in order to have electronic records.

Due to both ease and fidelity of data, the NDDPI populates the “Exit Date” field in STARS for students who have met the exit criteria. The actual date entered into the “Exit Date” field will be based on the date that the final assessment results are issued. In the “Enrollment” section in STARS there is an export option for “LEP Exit Information”, which is a report of students who exited the program for that specific school year in which the assessment was administered.

The NDDPI will notify districts of the students who have met the exit criteria and the date that will be entered in their student enrollment record. A district is given 30 days from the time they receive notice from NDDPI that the “*LEP Exit Information*” export is available to review the data and identify any discrepancies between the list and their own records.

If the district identifies a valid reason to add a student to the “LEP Exit Information” or reinstate an exited student back into the ELL program, the district will have the opportunity within the 30 days to communicate their issues to the NDDPI for consideration. In cases where changes are approved, the department staff will work with MIS to edit the information in the “*Exit Date*” field in order to accurately reflect the status of the student in the ELL program.

Monitoring after Exit

Districts are required to monitor students for two years after the student has exited an ELL program. Monitoring a student after exit from the ELL program is to ensure that the student is not encountering difficulty as a result of English language proficiency.

Exited students who are encountering difficulty as a result of language proficiency can be reentered into an ELL program if the ELL teacher and ILP team determine the information collected during the monitoring period indicates a need for reclassification. Reclassification can occur during two (2) year monitoring period, immediately after the two year monitoring period or anytime thereafter the student shows evidence of academic difficulty as a result of limited English language proficiency based on the score of an approved screening assessment.

Districts must use a uniform and comprehensive process for monitoring former ELL students. A sample monitoring worksheet is available on the NDDPI website in the resources section for ELL programs, **as well as in Appendix A of this guidance.**

Students who have exited from an ELL program are classified as “former ELL/LEP” for the purposes of Adequate Yearly Reporting (AYP) on the state assessment. Former LEP students’ scores are included in the LEP subgroup for two (2) years after exiting the program.

Contact Information

For clarification or more information about the ELL Program, in North Dakota please refer to one of the ELL Program contacts:

Lodee Arnold, Assistant Director
(701) 328-1876
laarnold@nd.gov

Jill Frohlich, Administrative Staff Officer
(701) 328-2254
jmfrohlich@nd.gov