

Updated Home Language Survey (HLS) Frequently Asked Questions

HLS Survey Administration	
Question	Answer
Can any of the HLS questions be reworded?	No.
On the three questions, can we change the word “language” to plural so that parents know they can respond with more than one language? <i>The questions are currently worded to elicit a one-word response.</i>	Although worded to elicit a one-word response, many times parents have provided two languages in response to some of the questions. The three original questions remain the same.
Do we use the GaDOE provided copy of the updated HLS form, or do we transfer it to our school letterhead?	The form assumes the HLS will be embedded in an online registration system. If using paper HLS forms, schools should transfer the information on the updated HLS form to school or system letterhead. Please be sure to include space for other elements, such as student name, other identifying information, and parent or guardian signature and date. See translated versions of the HLS on the HLS Form Bank webpage.
Is the parent or guardian’s signature and date necessary?	Yes.
Is the student’s name and other identifying information needed on paper forms?	Yes. The student’s name and other identifying information is needed on the HLS, whether online or paper. It is a local decision how to format the form with this information.
Can we use a paper copy, or must the HLS only be used online?	This is a local decision.
Can the HLS be offered as a download or link for parents to complete?	This is a local decision.

Online Registration Processes	
Question	Answer
Are we required to put the “ <i>Purpose of the Questions</i> ” section in our electronic registration process?	It is a best practice to provide parents and guardians with a rationale and explanation of the purpose for the home language survey questions.
Has the new HLS been shared with Student Information System (SIS) vendors? Or have any	Some LEAs in Georgia have contacted their vendors, and some vendors have made the



other GA local education agencies (LEAs) contacted their vendors?	necessary changes. Please contact your SIS vendor.
How can we ensure parents complete all three HLS questions, and only the multilingual section if needed?	Please contact your SIS vendor.
How can we ensure that parents who complete the multilingual section choose only one statement?	Please contact your SIS vendor.

HLS Survey Timeline	
Question	Answer
What is the timeline for implementation?	LEAs have the option to begin using the HLS form anytime between now and January 1, 2024. The latest date to implement the updated HLS form is January 1, 2024.
Must students have the updated HLS in their permanent folders at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year?	Yes, LEAs will maintain the signed/dated HLS results in the student's permanent or cumulative folder, whether this is online or on paper. Districts also have the option to use the ELP Screener application in SLDS to store the original HLS.

Educators' Decision-Making Guide	
Question	Answer
When would the parent need to select an additional information statement? Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the parent responds: (1) English, (2) English (3) Urdu? • Or when the parent responds: (1) English and Urdu, (2) English and Urdu, (3) English and Urdu? • Or when the parent responds: (1) English and Urdu for at least one response? 	When the HLS responses identify more than one language on <u>any</u> of the three questions in <u>any</u> combination, and one of those languages is English, then the parent must select an additional information statement.
Why is the additional information needed from multilingual parents?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To clarify the student's primary language when parents have reported a multilingual home language environment. 2. To accurately identify a potential English learner for English language proficiency (ELP) screening.
If a parent enrolling their child in kindergarten chooses the statement: " <i>My child understands and uses the home language and English equally,</i> " and we don't screen the student for English proficiency, does this mean we are assuming the child is fully English proficient?	Young children entering kindergarten are developing language – none of them are fully English proficient. When a parent asserts that the child is developing both languages equally, we are assuming the child's level of English proficiency is like students who are developing only English. Therefore, we do not need to screen the child's level of English proficiency.

	It is important to note that all students develop academic English proficiency in school; all students learn to listen, speak, read, and write in the language of school content.
What is the purpose for a parent completing a Multilingual/Multiliterate Amendment if they have indicated: <i>My child understands and uses the home language and English equally?</i>	When parents select the statement “ <i>My child understands and uses the home language and English equally</i> ”, the child is not a potential EL who must be administered the ELP screener. LEAs may ask parents to complete the MLL Amendment as <i>additional confirmation</i> of the student’s equal proficiency in both languages; however, this is optional.
If the student is not screened based on a multilingual family that choose the “equally” statement, but the student struggled academically in subsequent school years, would the school provide a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) or screen the student for ELP?	The identification of potential ELs to screen for English language proficiency is a process that occurs when a student enters U.S. schools for the first time. After that, schools can provide a multilingual student with the appropriate academic support as determined by the MTSS team. Screening for English language proficiency is not an option in subsequent school years.
What about students enrolling from other states who were identified as an EL in that state but when the parent enrolls them in GA, the parent indicates the home is multilingual? Would these students be identified as ELs for the ESOL program?	Georgia honors the EL identification of students in other states. If the student transfers to GA with a current EL identification, the GA LEA will review transfer records and code the student appropriately. If an out-of-state EL student transfers to Georgia, the student’s scores on the most recent ELP assessment or screener per that state’s criteria is used to identify student’s EL status. All EL = ‘Yes’ students must be provided with an ESOL language instruction program.

Data Collection Elements	
Question	Answer
Will state reporting of student language and parent preferred language be updated to allow for the reporting of multiple languages in HLS responses?	Not currently. Reporting two primary/home languages is not a U.S. Department of Education (ED) requirement.
Has data collections shared this information with our school technology departments, or will this information be new to them?	GaDOE Data Collections office is aware of the updated HLS and will communicate with school systems SIS directors.