Examining ELP progress of English learners with disabilities

Federal Programs Conference June 2019
What are we going to learn today?

1. Establishing a common language
2. Data on EL/SWD students
3. Resources to support our work with ELs/SWD
4. Characteristics of ELs/SWD
5. English language proficiency assessments & Title I, Part A
6. State procedures for exiting ELs/SWD from English learner (EL) status
   - Alternate ACCESS Exit (For Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities)
   - Less-than-4-Domains Exit
7. Post-exit monitoring procedures
Establishing a Common Language

- English learner (EL) students
- Students with Disabilities (SWD)
- Children with Disabilities
- English learners with disabilities (EL/SWD)
- Dually Identified Students
- Dual Language Learners (DLLs)
  - 3 & 4 year old children who are learning English in school while still developing their primary language in the home
- English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL Language Program)
Georgia FY19: EL and SWD

Percent of SWD to All Students 3-21

- 12.4% SWD
- 87.6% All Students

Percent EL/SWD to ALL SWD 6-21

- 8.2% EL/SWD
- 91.8% SWD not EL
Percentage of SWD, age 6-21 Served by IDEA Part B, by EL Status and Primary Area of Disability. 2018-2019 School Year

**ELs**
- Autism: 55.4%
- Emotional Behavior Disorder: 11.2%
- Intellectual Disability: 10.6%
- Orthopedically Impaired: 7.4%
- Speech/Language Impaired: 6.2%
- Visually Impaired: 6.5%
- Other Health Impaired: 0.4%
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 0.2%
- Specific Learning Disability: 0.2%
- Traumatic Brain Injury: 0.1%

**Non-ELs**
- Significant Developmental Delay: 36.9%
- Other Health Impaired: 17.8%
- Traumatic Brain Injury: 11.7%
- Specific Learning Disability: 10.6%
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 8.5%
- Speech/Language Impaired: 5.5%
- Orthopedically Impaired: 0.3%
- Autism: 0.3%
- Emotional Behavior Disorder: 0.2%
- Visual Impaired: 0.2%
- Intellectual Disability: 0.2%
FY19: Georgia's SWD and SWD/English Learners

- SWD, 92.1%
- SWD/EL, 7.9%
## What do my students need?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High English language needs</th>
<th>Low disability-related needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong> disability-related needs</td>
<td>Low English language needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong> disability-related needs</td>
<td><strong>High</strong> disability-related needs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- High English language needs
- Low disability-related needs
Additional Resources

• U.S.D.E.’s Chapter 6 of EL Toolkit: Tools & Resources for Addressing English Learners with Disabilities
  https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/chap6.pdf

• U.S.D.E.’s Office for Civil Rights’ (OCR) and the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Dear Colleague Letter on English Learner Students and Limited English Proficient Parents, January 2015, http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/ellresources.html.

• https://osepideasthatwork.org/federal-resources-stakeholders/english-language-learners

• www.altella.wceruw.org
Academic and language development trajectories unique to English learner students with learning disabilities


English Language Proficiency Assessments and Title I, Part A

Do we have to administer the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS to all our English learner students?
Here’s the answer… Yes!

Federal and state laws require that English learner (EL) students be assessed annually to measure their proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking English, as well as the progress they are making in learning English.

In fulfillment of these laws, EL students are required to participate in the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessments.
Here’s the answer… (cont.)

▪ All English learners in grades K–12 in public schools are required to participate annually in an English language proficiency assessment. With very few exceptions, all English learners take the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

▪ Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan may be eligible for accommodations. Paper accommodations include large print and braille test booklets.

▪ Some students with significant cognitive disabilities may be eligible to take the Alternate ACCESS instead of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.
Guiding Federal Statutes under ESEA/ESSA

• Title I, Part A

and LEAs to assess all ELs with disabilities on the annual ELP assessment. Under IDEA section 612(a)(16)(A), all students with disabilities must be included in all State assessments described under ESEA section 1111, including content assessments described under ESEA section 1111(b)(2), and the annual ELP assessment described in ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(G). All ELs with disabilities must be provided with appropriate accommodations on those assessments, as determined through applicable procedures (34 C.F.R. § 200.6). States must also provide an alternate ELP assessment for the small number of ELs with the most significant cognitive disabilities, for whom the student’s IEP team determines it to be necessary, who cannot participate in the general ELP assessment even with appropriate accommodations (34 C.F.R. § 200.6(h)(5) and 34 C.F.R. §300.160(a)).

• Title III, Part A [Sec. 3113(b)(2)]

• Establish & implement, standardized, statewide entrance and exit procedures.
WIDA’s Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

• Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is a large-scale test of English language proficiency intended for ELs with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

• Key Purposes:
  • Provide educators and parents with information on ELs with significant cognitive disabilities on...
    • Progress toward English proficiency
    • Proficiency in English, and
    • Effectiveness of programs that support these students’ English language development
  • Consistent with federal law, i.e. ESSA (2015) and the IDEA, 2004
From Domain to Composite Scores


Oral Language Score

Listening 50%
Speaking 50%

Literacy Score

Reading 50%
Writing 50%

Comprehension Score

Listening 30%
Reading 70%

Overall Score

Listening 15%
Speaking 15%
Reading 35%
Writing 35%
### Alternate ACCESS Sample Individual Student Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Domain</th>
<th>Proficiency Level**</th>
<th>Scale Score (Possible 910-960) and Confidence Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>P1</td>
<td>935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Language</td>
<td>P2</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>P3</td>
<td>955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall*</td>
<td>P1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Alternate ACCESS is an assessment used to measure the English proficiency of English Language Learners (ELLs) in Georgia. The proficiency levels are categorized as A1, A2, A3, P1, P2, P3, and Overall. The scale score ranges from 910 to 960, with higher scores indicating higher proficiency levels. The confidence band indicates the reliability of the score based on the number of items scored. For more information, see the Interpretive Guide for Score Reports available through the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).
Georgia’s EL Exit Procedures for English Learners with Disabilities

1. Students with significant cognitive disabilities
2. Students whose disability precludes assessment in one or more language domains
According to U.S.D.E.:

• An EL with a disability can be “exited” from EL status when he/she no longer meets the definition of an EL.
  ✓ When the student meets the State’s definition of “proficient” in English.
  ✓ Depending on the state’s definition of proficiency, the LEA, school personnel and/or the IEP Team may have input into the decisions of whether a student is proficient in English.

• The IEP Team is not authorized to remove the “EL” designation before the student has attained English proficiency.

• LEA and/or school personnel do not have the authority under Federal law to remove a student’s EL status before the student has been deemed proficient in English, solely because the student has an IEP.
Four Data Sources to “Assess” EL/SWD level of English proficiency

1. Assessment of English language proficiency using an objective assessment instrument
2. Teacher evaluation including, but not limited to, a review of the student’s curriculum mastery;
3. Parental opinion and consultation; and
4. Comparison of the performance of the student in basic skills against an empirically established range of performance in basic skills based upon the performance of English proficient students of the same age, which demonstrates whether the student is sufficiently proficient in English to participate effectively in a curriculum designed for students of the same age whose native language is English.
Alternate ACCESS Exit Procedures

Threshold for Considering EL Exit:

• Alternate ACCESS Overall CPL P2 (Emerging) for two consecutive years with IEP Team recommendation

• Or the same score for three consecutive years of any other Alternate ACCESS Overall CPL – with IEP Team recommendation.
WIDA’s Alternate ACCESS Composite Proficiency Levels
Description of Level P2:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level P2 Emerging</th>
<th>English language learners with significant cognitive disabilities will produce (Productive):</th>
<th>English language learners with significant cognitive disabilities will process (Receptive):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• General content words and expressions across content areas</td>
<td>• General content words and expressions, including cognates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Social and instructional words and expressions across content areas</td>
<td>• Social and instructional words and expressions across content areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Formulaic grammatical structures</td>
<td>• Compound grammatical constructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Repetitive phrasal and sentence patterns across content areas</td>
<td>• Repetitive phrasal and sentence patterns across content areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Phrases or short sentences</td>
<td>• Multiple related simple statements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Emerging expression of ideas</td>
<td>• An idea with details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Richard Woods, Georgia’s School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | Educating Georgia’s Future
Alternate ACCESS Exit Procedures

Procedures:

• The IEP Team will serve as an *English Learner (EL)* Reclassification Team by completing the state-provided *EL Reclassification / IEP Team Rubric* for English Learners with significant cognitive disabilities who have met the state’s established Alternate ACCESS Threshold for considering EL Exit, as stated above. (See [Alt ACCESS EL Reclassification Rubric](#))
Alternate ACCESS Rubric

EL Reclassification / IEP Team Rubric
(Only to be used with Alternate ACCESS Exit Procedures)

Student Name: ___________________________ GTID ____________

Note: If an EL Student Exit is being considered, the IEP Team must review the six (6) criteria below and select Yes or No as applicable to the student. A Yes answer for Criteria #5 and #6 requires a justification that contains evidence that the student meets the criteria. The Team’s final determination must consider the performance of English-only students in similar settings that have similar characteristics to the EL student being evaluated for reclassification (e.g. disability, grade level, educational background, etc.).

EL Reclassification / IEP Team Review Determination:
☒ Exit from EL Status
☒ Do not exit from EL status; student should remain coded as an English Learner.

Administrator Signature: ___________________________ Date: ____________
Parent Signature: ________________________________ Date: ____________
Less-Than-Four-Domains Exit Procedures

• The state has established that an English Learner (EL) with disabilities whose disability precludes assessment of one or more language domains should be considered for exit from English learner status when the student has met the following state-established criteria using a GaDOE-provided Designate Composite Proficiency Level (D-CPL).

Note: Students who are deaf, blind, and non-verbal would be considered as having a disability that precludes assessment in one or more of the language domains. Beyond these reasons, the Assessment Director should seek counsel from the GaDOE Assessment Division who would consult with Special Education and EL Learner Programs.
Designate Composite Proficiency Level

1. Administer the appropriate WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® or Alternate ACCESS language domain tests to the EL student as established in the IEP.

2. For each language domain test not administered, clearly mark **Do Not Score** with a reason code of **SPD** in the student test booklet or in WIDA AMS.

3. NOTE: Although WIDA ACCESS Individual Student Report will only show results for the language domains administered and will not include composite proficiency levels, it should still be shared with parents in a language they understand.
Designate Composite Proficiency Level (continued)

4. Using WIDA-provided language domain scale score tables, the GaDOE Assessment & Accountability Division will assign the lowest exit score for the missing language domain(s) to allow an overall composite proficiency level calculation.

5. The GaDOE Assessment & Accountability Division will calculate a Designate Composite Proficiency Level (D-CPL) for each EL student whose WIDA ACCESS score results are missing one or more language domains.

6. The GaDOE Assessment & Accountability Division will provide the school district with an ACCESS Designate Composite Proficiency Level (D-CPL) for each one of these EL students.
Use D-CPL to Apply Appropriate Exit Criteria

• After receiving the DOE generated D-CPL, the appropriate standardized, statewide EL exit criteria for the ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0 or the Alternate ACCESS Threshold for considering EL Exit would then be applied to determine whether the EL student will exit EL status or not.

ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0 Exit Criteria Flowchart

Alternate ACCESS Threshold for Considering Exit
Post-Exit Monitoring Procedures

• For two school years, the exited student’s progress toward IEP goals must be monitored by designated ESOL and Special Education personnel to ensure the student’s English proficiency is not a barrier to full participation in classroom instruction and assessment in English.

• Monitoring documentation will be maintained in the exited student’s permanent/cumulative records.

• The IEP team with a 2nd language specialist could revisit the EL Reclassification decision during the two-year post-exit period of monitoring student’s progress, if the team determines the student would benefit from language assistance services as provided by the ESOL language program.
Where can we find this information?

**ESOL Language Programs**

VI. EL Exit Procedures

- Kindergarten EL Exit Flowchart
- Grades 1-12 EL Exit Flowchart
- EL Reclassification Form
- Alternate ACCESS Exit Procedures
- Less-Than-Four-Domains Exit Procedures
- Number & Percentage of English Learners who Attained English Proficiency in 2018, by LEA
EL Language Programs
Help Desk

EL Language Programs Questions & Support
ELPrograms@doe.k12.ga.us
678-794-3695
Special Education Help Desk

Special Education Questions & Support
(404) 657-9968
SPEDHelpDesk@doe.k12.ga.us
Title I Help Desk

Title I Questions & Support
404-656-4028
TitleI@doe.k12.ga.us
Contact Information

Ms. Wina Low
Program Manager Senior,
Division for Special Education Services and Supports
wlow@doe.k12.ga.us

Dr. Kim Ezekiel
Program Specialist, Title I, Part A
kezekiel@doe.k12.ga.us

Dr. Margaret (Meg) Baker
Program Manager, Title III, Part A & ESOL Language Programs
mbaker@doe.k12.ga.us
Please Complete the Session Evaluation on the Conference App or Website

We Need Your Feedback!
Optional Workshop Attendance Tracking

Session Code: federal114

See the directions on the DOCUMENTS tab.