

Lexington Public Schools

English Learner Identification and Placement Process

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At the time of enrollment through Lexington's Central Registration, parents or caregivers of new students complete a Home Language Survey. If a language other than English is spoken at home, the student (with the exception of preschool and kindergarten students) is assessed by an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This assessment helps determine the student's eligibility for English language education programs and services.

- Students in Grades K–12 are assessed using the WIDA Screener, which evaluates English proficiency across all four language domains at the appropriate grade level.
- Preschool students are assessed using the DESE PreK English Learner Identification Tool, focusing on listening and speaking skills. These assessments are conducted at the student's school during the school year.
- Students enrolling during the summer are assessed at the Central Registration office, while those registering during the school year are assessed at their assigned schools.

In addition to English language proficiency, students may also be evaluated in other academic areas, such as mathematics, to ensure appropriate placement.

Identified English Learners (ELs) are eligible for ESL instruction and are placed in content-area classrooms with teachers who have received—or are in the process of receiving—training in strategies that support language development and improve lesson comprehensibility.

ESL teachers also administer the annual ACCESS assessment and monitor each EL's progress until the student meets the criteria for exiting the English language education program.