



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

660 West Daley Street

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Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

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Phone: 608-588-2551

346-Rule 2

Testing of ~~English Language Learner (ELL)~~ Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Students

According to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of December 2015, ~~English Language Learners (ELLs)~~ Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Students are required to take both a state standardized academic test and an English proficiency test on an annual basis.

State Standardized Tests

All ~~ELLs~~ LEP students are required to take the state standardized test unless the student's parent/guardian (in accordance with state and federal laws) has provided a written request for exclusion.

If an ~~ELL~~ LEP student has been in the U.S. less than one year (12 calendar months) and has limited English proficiency (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) Level 1 or 2), that student is allowed a one-time exemption from the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the test. In addition, the student's test scores will not count toward a school or district's rating or "report card". ~~However, if a student does not take the ELA portion based on this allowance, s/he must participate in the ACCESS for ELLs test.~~

In an ~~ELL's~~ LEP student's second year, the state has to incorporate test results for both reading and math, using some measure of growth. In an ~~ELL's-LEP~~ student's third year and beyond, their scores are treated like any other LEP student's.

~~ELLs-LEP~~ students are eligible for accommodations on state standardized tests as outlined by the test itself and others such as translation, practice tests, the use of dictionaries or other educational aids, unlimited time to complete the test, and other methods, provided they maintain the validity of the test. Accommodations are typically allowed only on non-ELA portions of the tests.

English Proficiency Tests

Upon arrival in the RVSD, ~~ELLs~~ LEP students will be given the ~~Wisconsin Access Placement Test (W-APT)~~ WIDA Screener test to determine their approximate English proficiency level unless the student has already been tested with either the ~~W-APT~~ WIDA Screener or the "ACCESS for ELLs" test within the last year by another district. In that event, RVSD will use the student's existing scores to assess and place the ~~ELL~~ LEP student in appropriate programming.

Regardless of if/when the ~~W-APT~~ WIDA Screener is administered, all ~~ELLs~~ LEP students must be given the ACCESS test annually. This includes ~~ELLs~~ LEP students who are not enrolled in the district's ~~ELL~~ ESL program by request of their parent/guardian.

If an ~~ELL~~ LEP student arrives in the district after the ACCESS testing window has closed, that student will be given the ~~W-APT~~ WIDA Screener to assess his/her current English proficiency level.

~~ELLs~~ LEP students with significant cognitive disabilities may be given the “Alternate ACCESS for ELLs” test instead. This is determined on a case-by-case basis by the ~~ELL’s~~ LEP student’s IEP Team.

The ACCESS test is administered until such time as the ~~ELL~~ LEP student is reclassified as fully English proficient. This occurs automatically by either achieving a composite (overall) score of 6.0 on the test or by meeting all of these criteria:

- 1) Grade 4 or above.
- 2) Achieves a composite (overall) score of 5.0 or ~~better~~-above.
- 3) Achieves a Literacy subscore of 5.0 or better.
- 4) Is performing at grade level with his/her peers in an academic setting, without accommodations.

~~ELLs-LEP~~ students may be manually reclassified as fully English proficient when the student achieves a composite (overall) score of 5.0 or above and the student shows clear evidence of English language proficiency, but was not automatically reclassified because the student did not meet the Literacy subscore benchmark. Evaluation for a reclassification decision should include the ~~bilingual and/or~~ ESL teacher, classroom teachers, parents and other relevant staff.

LEGAL REF. PI 13.07, PI 13.09
Wis. State Stats. 115.995-6

APPROVED: September 12, 1991
REVISED: August 13, 1998
APPROVED: September 10, 1998
REVISED: May 12, 2016
APPROVED: June 9, 2016