



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) Students

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

State Standardized Tests

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

ELLs 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 will be given the Wisconsin Access Placement Test (W-APT) test to determine their approximate English proficiency level unless the student has already been tested with either the W-APT 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 in appropriate programming.

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

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

ELLs 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 IEP Team.

The ACCESS test is administered until such time as the ELL 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.
- 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 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

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