

# EMIS Coding for Presumptive English Learners 2020-2021

## Overview

The Ohio Department of Education has revised statewide Reset and Restart Education information in accordance with recent guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education. **All students identified as English learners—whether identified by the standard or provisional procedure—should be coded appropriately using the state’s Education Management Information System (EMIS).** This will ensure continuity of funding and eligibility for other English learner-specific provisions. The [Reset and Restart Guide for School Administrators Serving English Learners and Linguistically Diverse Families](#) has been updated to reflect this change in coding.

## Background

Despite the unique circumstances of the 2020-2021 school year, the obligations Ohio schools have to English learners and their families remain. These [10 obligations](#) ensure English learner students can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among these obligations is a requirement to identify and assess all potential English learner students. In response to stakeholders and the remote learning approach taken by many Ohio schools this school year, the Ohio Department of Education articulated a *provisional* English learner identification procedure to uphold these students’ civil rights during these times of uncertainty. The provisional identification provides needed flexibility to schools unable to follow [Ohio’s standard English learner identification procedure](#), which includes an in-person assessment of the student’s English language proficiency using the Ohio English Language Proficiency Screener (OELPS). The temporary adjustment allows schools to *presumptively* identify students as English learners based on information from the Language Usage Survey and other available resources (interviews, records review, student observations) so students can begin receiving services as quickly as possible.

Initial information to Ohio schools explained that schools should not report students identified as English learners with the provisional procedure to EMIS; however, this had some unintended effects. **Now, all students identified as English learners—whether by the standard or provisional procedure—should be reported in EMIS using the existing codes for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Status Element (FD170).** This change ensures continuity of funding for all English learners and students’ eligibility for state assessments and assessment accommodations.

Presumptive English learners are considered full English learners, but it is essential districts and schools maintain a list of all students who are screened with the provisional procedure so they may take the OELPS when it is possible to do so. Presumptive English learners are eligible for the same services and accommodations as English learners identified in the standard way, and districts **should** report presumptive English learners in EMIS (FD170) as English learners. Please contact the Lau Resource Center for general information about English learner identification at (614) 466-4109 or [lau@education.ohio.gov](mailto:lau@education.ohio.gov). For questions about the OELPS, please contact the Office of Assessment at (614) 466-1317 or [statetests@education.ohio.gov](mailto:statetests@education.ohio.gov).