



Department of Education

John R. Kasich, Governor
Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

To: Superintendents, Test Coordinators and English Learner Program
Coordinators

Subject: Test Results from the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment
(OELPA)

Date: November 10, 2016

Dear Educator:

This is to update you regarding test scores from the [Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment](#) (OELPA). You administered this test to your students identified as English learners in the spring of 2016. The American Institutes of Research (AIR) posted the OELPA test scores to the Portal at this [link](#). Earlier this year, we communicated with you regarding the delay in score reporting due to first-year standard setting process in which Ohio EL educators played a significant role (for more information, [click here](#)). Ohio uses the OELPA scores to determine a student's progress and proficiency in English. Additionally, it determines if the student meets Ohio's exit criteria from the English Learner program and reclassifies the student as no longer an English learner.

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, we plan to have OELPA test scores available to you in May of the same year the students take the test.

In OELPA, there are three overall performance levels: **Proficient, Emerging and Progressing**. The performance levels are determined as follows:

- "Proficient" students are those scoring any combination of 4's and 5's across all four domains;
- "Emerging" students are those scoring any combination of 1's and 2's across all four domains;
- "Progressing" students are those scoring any combination across the four domains that does not fall into Proficient or Emerging.

Administrative rule change

The performance level definitions above and the exit criteria defined below do not match the definitions as currently defined in [OAC 3301-13-11. Districts](#) must follow these new exit criteria and performance level definitions beginning with their spring 2016 OELPA data. The ODE will be working over the next several months to propose changes to [OAC 3301-13-11](#), in the effort to align them with the new exit criteria. The new exit criteria corresponds to the overall proficiency levels of the OELPA. We will notify you when this proposed rule change posts for public comment in the near future.

Exit criteria

Students identified "Proficient" as defined above in grades K-12 are eligible to exit the English Learner program.

Trial mainstream

The ODE considers English learners who score a combination of 5's and 4's in three domains and a score of 3 in one domain as Trial Mainstream (M category in EMIS). Ohio is no longer using the former "Proficient Trial Mainstream" as a path towards exiting from the EL program. Trial Mainstream students will remain in the program until they reach "Proficient" status as defined above and the ODE will continue to use the (M) category for state funding purposes. Educators should monitor students' progress and provide services as needed until they meet the exit criteria.

English learners

All students in the emerging and progressing categories will remain in the program with services, supports and accommodations until they meet the exit criteria.

For more information on OELPA, please contact the Office of Curriculum and Assessment at (614) 466-1317 or the Lau Resource Center at (614) 466-4109.

Resources:

[Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[The Assessment Portal](#)
[Ohio English Language Proficiency Standards](#)