

Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment Results and Exit Criteria – November 2016

Students were administered the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA) in spring 2016. Earlier this year, the Ohio Department of Education reported the delay in score reporting due to the first-year standard setting process. Ohio uses the OELPA scores to determine the English language proficiency levels of students who have been identified as English learners. The score results are used as the state's progress indicator and exit indicator for students to be reclassified from the status of English learner.

The OELPA results were posted on Nov. 6, 2016 and the exit criteria based on those results was presented in a memo sent to districts on Nov. 11, 2016. Students who received a Proficient overall performance level must be exited immediately based on the Nov. 11 date. English learner accommodations shall not be allowed on any state tests for students who exited the program as of Nov. 11. The next state tests to be administered are the high school end-of-course tests during the Dec. 5, 2016 to Jan. 13, 2017 test window.

A student is reclassified (no longer *English learner*) when the student has attained a performance level of Proficient on the OELPA. The Proficient performance level is defined as domain/test level scores of 4s and 5s in any combination across all four domains (listening, reading, writing and speaking). Students in grades K - 12 are eligible for reclassification if the student receives a performance level of Proficient. The EMIS window is now open to enter the code (N) to reclassify the student. The district must maintain the reclassification status based on the Nov. 11, 2016 date.

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.

The performance level definitions above 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 correspond to the overall proficiency levels of the OELPA.