



State Required Exit Criteria for Pennsylvania's English Language Instructional Programs for English Language Learners

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has revised the State Required Exit Criteria for Pennsylvania's English Language Instructional Programs for English Language Learners (ELLs) to make exit decisions **for the 2015-16 school year based on 2014-15 data.**

Performance level scores for the new 2015 Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) resulted in significant drops in student performance across the state. PDE wants to ensure that ELL students have the opportunity they deserve to exit the program and that the criteria by which they are being measured are fair and accurate indicators of achievement. Therefore, the following revised criteria should be applied by Pennsylvania local education entities (LEA) to ELLs to determine LEP status for the 2015-16 school year.

Every LEA must include the State Required Exit Criteria for Pennsylvania's English Language Instructional Programs for ELLs in the LEA's program for ELLs. The exit criteria represent valid and reliable evidence of a student's English language proficiency to exit from an English language instructional program. These required exit criteria ensure consistent measures across LEAs for exiting ELLs from English language instructional programs.

Assurance of implementation of the exit criteria by LEAs will take place within the Federal Programs' Monitoring/Consolidated Program Review and the LEP System Review.

Program exit from the Pennsylvania English language instructional program for English language learners takes place annually between June and September. LEP status of students for the current school year must be determined by September 30 and reported in the PIMS October District and School Enrollment Collection. Students reported as current ELLs in the PIMS October District and School Enrollment Collection cannot exit the English language instructional program from October until June.

To meet the required state exit criteria for Pennsylvania's English language instructional programs for ELLs, LEAs must ensure that students meet **both required exit criteria** listed below and meet **one additional exit criteria** listed below to exit from an English language instructional program:

Required Exit Criteria:

1. Score of 5.0 on an ACCESS for ELLs Kindergarten assessment (accountability score) or score of 5.0 on a Tier C ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

Cutoff score flexibility is available in the following *Special Circumstances*:

- *Following the grade and score criteria in the table below, the W-APT may be administered between June and September to students who scored below the minimum cutoff for program exit on the January administration of the ACCESS in order to demonstrate sufficient progress to justify exit.*

NOTE: The W-APT may only be administered to a student once in any school year.

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>ACCESS Score</u>	<u>Required W-APT Scores*</u>
K	Cut-off score flexibility is not allowable for Kindergarteners	
1-5	4.6-4.9	5.0 in each domain
6-8	4.7-4.9	5.0 in each domain
9-12	4.8-4.9	5.0 in each domain

NOTE: A student must score 5.0 in each domain (listening, speaking, reading and writing). A composite proficiency score will not be used.

- A score of PROFICIENT on the English Language Arts PSSA or Literature Keystone assessments can be used along with the other required criteria outlined in this policy (Required Exit Criteria #2 and Additional Exit Criteria #1 or #2) to justify exit for students who achieve a composite proficiency score of 4.5 to 4.9 on the January administration of the ACCESS. In this case, W-APT scores are not necessary to demonstrate progress from the time of ACCESS administration to the end of the school year.
2. Score of BASIC on the annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) math or Algebra I Keystone AND English Language Arts PSSA or Literature Keystone.

NOTE: PSSA and Keystone exam scores must be from the most recent academic school year.

Cutoff score flexibility is available in the following *Special Circumstances*:

- For students that were administered a PSSA math and/or PSSA English Language Arts assessment in school year 2014-15 and did not score BASIC or higher, each of the remaining exit criteria must be met to exit (Required Exit Criteria #1, Additional Exit Criteria #1, Additional Exit criteria #2).
- For students that are in a grade that is not assessed with a PSSA or Keystone assessment, each of the remaining exit criteria must be met to exit (Required Exit Criteria #1, Additional Exit Criteria #1, Additional Exit criteria #2).
- For students that were opted out of participation in a PSSA or Keystone assessment due to a religious objection or conflict, each of the remaining exit criteria must be met to exit (Required Exit Criteria #1, Additional Exit Criteria #1, Additional Exit criteria #2).
- For students transferring from other states, the results of academic achievement assessments used for accountability in other states may be considered when the academic proficiency level is comparable to BASIC on the PSSA/Keystone assessments.

Additional Exit Criteria:

1. Final grades of C or better in core subject areas (Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies).
2. Scores on district-wide or local assessments that are comparable to the BASIC performance level on the math PSSA or Algebra I Keystone AND English Language Arts PSSA or Literature Keystone assessments.

Questions may be directed to Linda Long (lilong@pa.gov), Tami Shaffer (tshaffer@pa.gov) and Anne Scoufalos (ascoufalos@csc.csiu.org).