

TO Presidents of Pennsylvania Colleges and Universities
FROM Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education
DATE June 28, 2016
RE English Fluency in Higher Education Act (Act 76 of 1990)

MESSAGE:

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of your responsibilities in complying with Act 76 of 1990. Known as the English Fluency in Higher Education Act, this act requires institutions of higher education to certify annually to the Department of Education that faculty are fluent in the English language in the classroom.

The act requires each institution of higher education to evaluate its instructional faculty for fluency in the English language in the classroom. According to the act, fluency is to be determined “using varied and appropriate criteria, such as personal interviews, peer, alumni, and student observations and evaluations, publications, professional presentations, tests, or any other appropriate criteria which effectively evaluates fluency.” It is suggested that as a matter of practice, the results of your English language fluency evaluation be recorded in the personnel file of each instructional faculty member.

To comply with Act 76, please complete and submit the attached Assurance of Compliance form by September 1, 2016. The assurance form, legislation and regulations are available on the PDE website at the address below.

Please submit this form to the Department via email to RA-higheredreporting@pa.gov no later than September 1, 2016. Questions about this assurance statement, the act or the regulations may be emailed to RA-higheredreporting@pa.gov.

For more information, refer to the [Pennsylvania Department of Education website](http://www.education.state.pa.us).