Special Education and English Learners

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Acronyms

❏ **EL** - English learner (formerly ELL)

❏ **ESSA**- Every Student Succeeds Act (formerly ESEA)

❏ **RED** - Review of Existing Data
❏ **DOJ** - Department of Justice
❏ **OCR** - Office for Civil Rights
❏ **PHLOTE** - Primary Home Language Other Than English (language survey given to families at time of school enrollment- also called "Home Language Survey"/HLS)
❏ **IDEA** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
❏ **FAPE** - Free and Appropriate Public Education
❏ **PEA** - Public Education Agency
❏ **SDI** - Specially Designed Instruction
❏ **ILLP** - Individual Language Learner Plan

Quick Links

EL Parental Notification and Consent
https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=5b6caeb71dcb250edc160604

IDEA definition of limited English proficient student
https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/a/300.27

IDEA definition of native language
https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/a/300.29

IDEA eligibility requirements for determinant factors
https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d/300.306/b

IDEA IEP considerations for a child with limited English proficiency
https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/b/d/300.324/a/2/ii

PEA Documentation Must Include:

- Primary home language as identified on the PHLOTE
- Determination of the language in which a child is most proficient
- Results of language proficiency testing (AZELLA scores)
- AZELLA performance data considered during a RED
- Ruling out language needs as a determinant factor in an evaluation
- Impact of limited English proficiency on progress in the general education curriculum
- Evidence of evaluation assessments provided in the language and form most likely to yield accurate information
- Language needs considered in IEPs
- Evidence that required notices are provided in the native language of the parent

Where Can Documentation be Included?

Evaluation
- ◦ Primary home language as identified on the PHLOTE
- ◦ Determination of the language in which a child is most proficient
- ◦ Results of language proficiency testing (AZELLA scores)
- ◦ AZELLA performance data
- ◦ Ruling out language needs as a determinant factor
- ◦ Impact of limited English proficiency on progress in the general education curriculum
- ◦ Evidence of evaluation assessments provided in the language and form most likely to yield accurate information

IEP
- ◦ Primary home language as identified on the PHLOTE
- ◦ Determination of the language in which a child is most proficient and/or PHLOTE info.
- ◦ Language needs considered
- ◦ AZELLA performance data

Notices
- ◦ Required notices are provided in the native language of the parent

[English Learner Toolkit Chapter 6](#)

The English Learner Toolkit is a resource created by the US Department of Education to provide guidance on best and compliant practice to support students that are EL.

This resource contains suggested checklists for PEAs to follow, tools for use in identification of students that are EL for special education/504 needs, policy recommendations, and more.

[Dear Colleague Letter](#) and [Fact Sheet](#)

The Dear Colleague Letter outlines specific federal requirements pertaining to students that are EL.

This is a collaborative resource created by the DOJ and OCR Information about a PEA's obligations to EL students and limited English proficient parents under Title VI and the EEOA.

This letter addresses the actions PEAs must take to ensure appropriate access to general education curriculum is taking place.

English Learners with Disabilities Presentation

This presentation was created for and presented to EL administrators and Special Education directors in May 2019 to provide updated and pertinent information to share with schools regarding EL students.

Whom Do I Call?

For general EL programmatic or assessment questions:
◦ [OELAS Specialist](#)

For EL questions related to special education requirements:
◦ [ESS/PSM Specialist](#)

[Contact your Program Support & Monitoring Specialist](#)

Phone: (602) 542-4013

Email: ESSinbox@azed.gov

Exceptional Student Services office locations in
Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff