



**Arizona Department of Education**  
Student Achievement and Educator Excellence Division &  
Office of English Language Acquisition Services

**Guidance Regarding Initial Fluent English Proficient Students**

October 7, 2020

Dear Superintendents, Directors, and Coordinators:

In August of 2020, the Student Achievement and Educator Excellence Division & the Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) provided [Parental Notification, EL Data Integrity, and AZELLA Guidance](#) regarding your incoming potential 2020-2021 English learner (EL) students. The following is a continuation of that guidance:

For your incoming kindergarten and newly enrolled students who you have **applied temporary entrance procedures that permit the presumption of EL identification**, guidance was given to place these students into EL program services at the beginning of the school year. It was also communicated that a 2020-2021 AZELLA Placement Test will need to be administered to these students once you are able to do so in a safe and secure test environment at a physical location/official LEA building.

Now that October is upon us, school districts and charter schools have begun the process of administering the Kindergarten Placement Test (KPT) to their incoming kindergarten students and administering the AZELLA Placement Test to their newly enrolled (Grades 1-12) students.

Some of these presumptive EL identified students, after being administered the AZELLA, have attained an Overall Proficiency Level of Proficient. These students are classified as Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP). And, as was mentioned above, guidance was given to place these presumptive EL identified students into EL program services at the beginning of the school year.

The issue at hand is how to exit these IFEP students from EL program services now that they do not have an EL Need and are Not Eligible for EL Services. The proper way to exit these students from EL program services is to utilize the AZELLA test date as the **Service Exit** date and to utilize the **EL Program Exit Reason** of Reclassified Fluent English Proficient. Please note that these IFEP students are not eligible for any further AZELLA testing (i.e., Spring Reassessment).

**Example from the EL71 – EL Program Participation Report:**

Grade	EL Program	Service Entry	Service Exit	EL Program Exit Reason
KG	A1	08/17/20	10/05/20	Reclassified Fluent English Proficient

Sincerely,

Melissa Castillo, Ed.D.  
Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Office of English Language Acquisition Services  
Arizona Department of Education

**Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction**  
1535 West Jefferson Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007 • (602) 542-0753 • [www.azed.gov/oelas](http://www.azed.gov/oelas)