



# State of Arizona Department of Education



## Office of English Language Acquisition Services

August 16, 2018

Dear Superintendent/ EL Coordinator/ Title III Coordinator/ EL Main Contact:

### Subject: Process for Implementing Bilingual Waiver 1

Per (A.R.S. §15-753), one of three Bilingual Waivers is required for an English learner (EL) to participate in a bilingual classroom or dual language immersion program. Bilingual Waiver 1 is relevant for EL students not yet 10 years or older.

- **Waiver 1** (A.R.S. §15-753B.1) My child already knows English: the child already possesses *good English language skills*, as measured by oral evaluation or standardized tests of English vocabulary comprehension, reading, and writing, in which the child scores approximately at or above the state average for his/her grade level or at or above the 5th grade average, whichever is lower; or,

Previously, the Kindergarten Placement Test (KPT) and AZELLA served as the only means of oral evaluation of “*good English language skills*”, qualifying students for Bilingual Waiver 1. Many local education agencies (LEAs) requested the ability to use other measures of oral evaluation to determine “good English language skills” for students entering Kindergarten.

Last Spring, after consultation with stakeholders and experts, OELAS developed new guidance for oral evaluations which can be used to qualify EL students for Bilingual Waiver 1. See below:

- For students in grades K-3, who do not participate in state standardized tests, “good English language skills” is measured by oral evaluation.
  - For **Kindergarten students**, oral evaluation can be conducted using various formal and informal language assessments. Possible examples include:
    - KPT
    - Student Oral Language Observation Matrix (SOLOM)
    - Idea Proficiency Test (IPT) Oral English
    - Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA)
    - Early Language Listening and Oral Proficiency Assessment (ELLOPA)
  - A local education agency (LEA) who chooses to use **any** assessment other than the KPT for oral evaluation of students entering Kindergarten must first have the assessment approved by the Office of English Language Acquisition Services and any fee associated with an alternate assessment must be paid for by the LEA.
  - For **students in grades 1-3**, AZELLA placement or reassessment Listening and Speaking scores will determine “good English skills”.

**Diane M. Douglas, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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## Office of English Language Acquisition Services

The process for implementing an oral evaluation other than the KPT to qualify an EL for Bilingual Waiver 1 is as follows:

1. Select the oral evaluation that best fits the needs of your LEA.
2. Complete the *Oral Evaluation for Bilingual Waiver 1 Application* and submit to [Bilingual.Waiver1@azed.gov](mailto:Bilingual.Waiver1@azed.gov).
  - a. OELAS will review all applications and respond in a timely manner.
3. Once approved, please keep the following information on file:
  - a. ADE formal approval of oral evaluation.
  - b. Signed Bilingual Waiver 1 and corresponding oral evaluation rubric/scoring in each student's cumulative file.
4. Submit to ADE the annual list of students who qualified for Bilingual Waiver 1 using the oral evaluation.

**\*Please note:**

- If using the KPT for Bilingual Waiver 1, students should score 231 or better to meet the *Characteristics of Good English Skills*.
- If using AZELLA for Bilingual Waiver 1, students must be Intermediate in Listening and Speaking to meet the *Characteristics of Good English Skills*.

**ALL English learners must still take the KPT and/or AZELLA for placement and annual reassessment. The oral evaluation is to qualify students for Bilingual Waiver 1 only.**

Contact Kate Wright by email ([kate.wright@azed.gov](mailto:kate.wright@azed.gov)) or phone (602-542-9689) with any questions or necessary clarifications of this guidance.

Respectfully,

Kate Wright  
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602-542-9689