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August 31, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland PCC
Interim State Superintendent of Education

RE: Update on English Learner Students in Their First 12 Months of Enrollment in U.S. Schools

This is an update of information provided in a memorandum dated August 24, 2015, regarding flexibility given to states by the U.S. Department of Education as it relates to assessment of English Learner (EL) students for accountability purposes. This flexibility pertains only to EL students in their first 12 months of enrollment in U.S. schools. EL students for whom this is not their first 12 months of enrollment in U.S. schools are required to participate in all state assessments.

An EL student during his/her first 12 months of enrollment in U.S. schools is defined as an EL student who has attended school in the United States (not including Puerto Rico) for 12 months or less. The definition provides a window within which time an EL student is entitled to an exemption from academic content assessments in reading/language arts for accountability purposes.

Attached you will find the *Decision Chart for English Learner Students in Their First 12 Months of Enrollment in U.S. Schools* dated February 2016. This chart is intended to clarify the required participation of these students. The EL Committee must include decisions regarding the criteria outlined in this decision chart in the Individual English Language Plan (I-ELP). These decisions must be made on an individual basis. If you have questions about EL student participation in state assessments, please contact Mrs. Susan Beard in the Student Assessment Section at (334) 242-8038. If you have questions about the EL Program or the student's I-ELP, please contact Ms. Cyndi Townley in the Federal Programs Section at (334) 242-8199.

PCC/RWM/SWB

Attachment

cc: City and County System Test Coordinators
City and County Title III Coordinators
Dr. Mark Kirkemier
Mrs. Shanthia Washington
Dr. Melinda Maddox
Mrs. Rebecca Mims
Ms. Crystal Richardson
Mr. Edmund Moore
Ms. Cyndi Townley
Mrs. Susan Beard

FY16-2096

Alabama State Department of Education
Office of Student Learning
Student Assessment

February 2016

Decision Chart
For English Learner Students in Their First 12 Months of Enrollment in U.S. Schools

Below is a chart to help clarify the participation of English Learner (EL) students in their first 12 months of enrollment in U.S. schools. The EL Committee must include decisions regarding the criteria outlined below in the Individual English Language Plan (I-ELP). These decisions must be made on an individual basis. If you have questions concerning special situations, please contact Student Assessment at (334) 242-8038.

REQUIRED PARTICIPATION OF EL STUDENTS IN THEIR FIRST 12 MONTHS OF ENROLLMENT IN U.S. SCHOOLS

Grades 3-8	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Grades 8-12
ACT Aspire	***ACT Aspire***	***ACT with Writing***	***ACT WorkKeys***	*ACT QualityCore End-of-Course* (EOC) *Assessments* ➢ Algebra I ➢ English 9 ➢ English10 EL students enrolled in the following courses will take the appropriate EOC assessments: ➢ Algebra I ➢ Algebra IB ➢ Algebraic Essentials B ➢ English 9 ➢ English 10 ➢ English Essentials 9 ➢ English Essentials 10
Mathematics Science (Grades 5 and 7 only) **Required** If a school chooses to administer science as an optional assessment in Grades 3, 4, 6, or 8 participation is required	Mathematics Science	Mathematics Science Reading English Writing	Applied Mathematics Locating Information Reading for Information	

- Flexibility given to EL students in their first 12 months of enrollment in U.S. schools pertains to the academic content assessments in reading and language arts for accountability purposes. Participation in reading and language arts, though not required, is also not prohibited. The EL Committee must be included when making decisions about participation in reading and language arts. For questions regarding participation in reading and language arts, contact Student Assessment.

- All EL students in Grades K-12, regardless of the number of years of enrollment in U.S. schools, must participate in *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0*, the state-administered English language proficiency test, or *Alternate ACCESS for ELLs*.

- Contact Student Assessment for guidance for EL students in their first 12 months of enrollment in U.S. schools who are also participating in the *Alabama Alternate Assessment.*