EL Exit Criteria Change

2021-22 School Year
How has the ACCESS assessment changed?

ACCESS Proficiency Levels, by Year

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
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</table>
EL Exit Criteria Change

• **Current State**: English Learners (ELs) must score a 5.0 on the ACCESS assessment to exit EL status.

• **New policy beginning in 2021-22 school year**: ELs in grades 1-12 must score a 4.5 to exit EL status.
  • We are not lowering expectations of students.
    • A score of 5.0 on ACCESS now aligns with a 5.9-6.0 on the previous version of ACCESS. A score of 4.5 on ACCESS now aligns with a 5.1-5.5 on the previous version of ACCESS.
  • We want to ensure that students are appropriately identified and not receiving services they do not need.
  • The kindergarten (K) assessment did not change; the K criterion remains at a 5.0.

• **Timing**: This policy will take effect with the spring 2022 ACCESS assessment, which will affect EL statuses in the 2022-23 school year. This policy change is NOT retroactive.
Student Benefit

Students should receive EL services only when they are beneficial.

• The WIDA consortium reset standards in SY2016-17, making it far more challenging to score a 5.0 or higher.

• ELs in DC who score a 4.5+ on ACCESS score similarly on the PARCC English language arts assessment as students who are not ELs.

• EL students who would succeed in the general classroom but receive EL-related services tend to have worse long-term academic outcomes.

• LEAs can still return students to EL status if they determine that they require those services to succeed in the general classroom.