

TOOL 3: ASSESSING ENGLISH LEARNERS

Once a student is identified through the Home Language Survey as a potential EL student, schools must administer valid and reliable assessments to determine the student's English proficiency and resulting need for placement in the EL program.

Any student who answered yes to any of the questions on the Home Language Survey should be assessed.

- Schools must use a valid and reliable assessment of proficiency in four domains of English (i.e., speaking, listening, reading, and writing) to determine if EL services are necessary
 - The W-APT Placement Test is commonly used.
 - States sometimes develop their own placement test.
 - Check with your state.
- The assessment must be appropriate for the student's age and grade level.
- The assessment must be administered within 30 days of the start of the school year.
- Individuals administering assessments/placement tests should receive some training.
- The school's procedure for assessing potential EL students should describe who will administer and score assessments and what training is required to ensure valid and reliable results.
- The school's procedure should also describe how records of results are maintained.