

NJDOE ELL Roundtable/Technical Assistance May 12 and 13, 2020 Q & A

ELL Identification

1. What is the process for screening students for services during remote learning?

A provisional screening process for identifying ELLs is outlined in the NJDOE Broadcast sent on May 7, 2020 – [Identification and Parent Notification of English Language Learners During COVID-19](#). This provisional process is in effect during remote learning for schools.

[Sec. 3113.\[20 U.S.C. § 6823\]\(b\)\(2\)](#) reads, “including an assurance that all students who may be English learners are assessed for such status within 30 days of enrollment in a school in the State;”.

2. Does the parent notification occur when it is provisional, or when it is confirmed with a screening?

Parents must receive notification of provisional identification and services in writing no later than 30 days of the child’s provisional status. The notification letter must clearly state the provisional status and how it was determined. Refer to: [Identification and Parent Notification of English Language Learners During COVID-19](#).

3. Can parent notification be delivered electronically?

Yes, parent notification may be sent via mail or electronically. The communication must be dated, in English and a language comprehensible to the parent. Source: [Title I Parent Involvement](#).

Funding

1. Is use of Title III funds federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018 (2018-2019) carryover being extended?

Yes, on April 30, 2020, NJDOE sent a broadcast on the [U.S. Department of Education Waivers Granted Related to the COVID-19 Emergency](#). Page 2 indicates the waiver allows flexibility to LEAs, including extending the period of availability of FFY 2018 funds to September 30, 2021.

2. Can schools transfer funds?

The U.S. Department of Education allows flexibility in the transfer of funds from one title program to another. [Transferring State- and Local-Level Funds](#) (Section 5103 of the ESEA) is permissible, see Page 4-6 on allowable transferring local funds. In addition, districts can transfer FY 2020 teacher salary funding to either technology or professional development costs through September 30, 2021.

3. Can schools use Title III equipment to support ELLs and immigrants with access to technology needs during remote learning?

Yes. The U.S. Department of Education allows for [Repurposing Federal Equipment and Supplies to Combat COVID-19](#). For temporary use, schools may repurpose equipment and supplies to meet the needs of teaching and learning during remote learning.

4. Are there any waivers to Title III monies related to supplement-not-supplant to support testing and other related program services?

NJDOE ELL Roundtable/Technical Assistance

May 12 and 13, 2020

Q & A

No. The supplement-not-supplant requirement applies when LEAs are conducting remote learning. Source: USDE Fact Sheet [Providing Services to English During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#).

- 5. Can emergency relief funds be used to purchase apps or software products that allow an English-speaking teacher to have his/her communication translated for the ELLs and their families?**

Yes. The NJDOE sent a broadcast on May 11, 2020 regarding the [CARES Act ESSER Funds](#). Additional information on ESSER can be found on the [CARES Act Educational Stabilization Fund](#), under the Allowable uses of funds for LEAs tab. *Note: The deadline to submit an ESSER fund application is June 19, 2020.*

Program Services

- 1. How can schools plan for remote learning if schools are still online in September?**

Schools must update the [Required Updates to District's Public Health-Related School Closure Plans](#).

- 2. Can schools retain ELLs for lack of or intermittent participation after the district has reached out numerous times and provided devices as well as hot spots, etc.?**

Schools may use summer programs to address learning and credit loss through a credit recovery plan. Reference: [Required Updates to District's Public Health-Related School Closure Plans](#), Page 2 – Summer Programming.

- 3. Do schools still need to demonstrate that ELLs are receiving a period of ESL daily?**

ELLs must continue to receive language services during COVID-19. Delivery of ESL and other language services must be included in the [Required Updates to District's Public Health-Related School Closure Plans](#). The ESL requirement must be aligned to scheduled core subject areas in compliance with district's bilingual/ESL/ELS three-year plan and/or bilingual waiver. District boards of education or trustees must ensure component three of the [Checklist for School Health-Related Closure Plans](#) is included.

ACCESS

*For more information refer to the broadcast sent on May 27, 2020 regarding [ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS Updates](#).

- 1. What are the guidelines to return ACCESS materials to DRC?**

Districts should return materials to DRC by August 3, 2020.

- 2. Are schools going to receive ACCESS score reports for the students who completed some or all the domains?**

Yes. LEAs will receive score reports for students who completed two or more domains online and/or paper.

- 3. Can partial scores/incomplete ACCESS be used to exit students?**

NJDOE ELL Roundtable/Technical Assistance
May 12 and 13, 2020

Q & A

No. The U.S. Department of Education Fact Sheet on [Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#) provides federal guidance on exiting procedures (p.8). As per ESSA requirements, all students reclassified from ELL status must be monitored for a period of two years.

NJ Administrative Code

- 1. Is the Three-Year Bilingual/ESL/ELS Plan and Bilingual Waiver still due June 30, 2020?**
Guidance is pending and forthcoming.