

POLICY

Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC)

The language proficiency assessment committee ("LPAC") shall select the appropriate assessment option for English language learners, as defined by Education Code Chapter 29, Subchapter B, as a student of limited English proficiency (LEP), in accordance with 19 Administrative Code 101.1005. The LPAC assessment decisions must be made on an individual student basis in accordance with administrative procedures established by TEA.

The LPAC shall document in the student's permanent record file:

1. The decisions and justifications related to English language proficiency assessments under 19 Administrative Code 101.1003;
2. The decisions and justifications related to selecting the appropriate assessment option under 19 Administrative Code 101.1005;
3. In conjunction with the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee, the need for allowable testing accommodations under 19 Administrative Code 101.1003 and .1005; and
4. The reason for a postponement under 19 Administrative Code 101.1023.

19 TAC 101.1003(b), (c), .1005(a), (c), .1023.

Definitions

"Recent unschooled immigrant" means an immigrant who initially enrolled in a school in the United States not more than 12 months before the date of the administration of an assessment and who, as a result of inadequate schooling outside of the United States, lacks the necessary foundation in the essential knowledge and skills of the curriculum determined by the LPAC. Education Code 39.027(g).

"Unschooled asylee or refugee" means a student who:

1. Initially enrolled in a school in the United States as
 - a. An asylee as defined by 45 C.F.R. 400.41; or
 - b. A refugee as defined by 8 U.S.C. 1101;
2. Has a visa issued by the U.S. Department of State with a Form I-94 Arrival/Departure record, or a successor document, issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that is stamped with "Asylee," "Refugee," or "Asylum"; and
3. As a result of inadequate schooling outside of the United States, lacks the necessary foundation in the essential knowledge and skills of the curriculum prescribed under Education Code 28.002, as determined by the LPAC established under Education Code 29.063.

Heritage Academy BOARD POLICY MANUAL

POLICY GROUP 2 - INSTRUCTION

STATE ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS PG-2.24

Education Code 39.027(a-1); 19 TAC 101.1005(c).

“Inadequate schooling outside the United States” is defined as little or no formal schooling outside the United States such that the asylee or refugee lacks basic literacy in his or her primary language upon enrollment in school in the United States. 19 TAC 101.1005(d).

English Language Proficiency Assessments

In kindergarten through grade 12, an English language learner (ELL), as defined by Education Code, Chapter 29, Subchapter B as a student of limited English proficiency, shall be administered state-identified English language proficiency assessments annually in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to fulfill state requirements under Education Code, Chapter 39, Subchapter B, and applicable federal requirements. 19 TAC 101.1003(a).

Limitations on Exemptions

First Year after Enrollment

A LEP student may be administered an accommodated or alternative assessment instrument or may be granted an exemption from or a postponement of the administration of the state assessment for up to one year after initial enrollment in a school in the United States if the student has not demonstrated proficiency in English as determined by the assessment system developed to evaluate academic progress of a LEP student. Education Code 39.027(a)(1).

Subsequent Years

A LEP student granted the initial exemption period above may be administered an accommodated or alternative assessment instrument or may be granted an exemption from or a postponement of the administration of the state assessment for up to:

1. An additional two years if the student is a recent unschooled immigrant or is in a grade for which no assessment instrument in the primary language of the student is available; or
2. An additional four years if the student's initial enrollment in a school in the United States was as an unschooled asylee or refugee.

The LPAC must determine that the student lacks the academic language proficiency in English necessary for an assessment in English to measure the student's academic progress in a valid, reliable manner.

Minimum Days for Enrollment

Regardless of the date on which the student initially enrolled in a school in the United States, unless a student is enrolled in a school in the United States for a

Heritage Academy BOARD POLICY MANUAL

POLICY GROUP 2 - INSTRUCTION

STATE ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS PG-2.24

period of at least 60 consecutive days during a year, the student may not be considered to be enrolled in a school in the United States for that year for the purpose of determining a number of years under Education Code 39.027(a)(1), (2), or (3).

Education Code 39.027(a)(1)–(2), (a-1), (a-2), (g).

Testing in Grades 3–8

An ELL shall participate in the grades 3–8 assessments and, except as provided below, shall be administered the general form of the English-version state assessment.

Spanish-Version Assessment

A Spanish-speaking ELL in grades 3–5 may be administered the state’s Spanish-version assessment if an assessment in Spanish will provide the most appropriate measure of the student’s academic progress.

Linguistically Accommodated Assessments

An ELL in grade 3 or higher may be administered the linguistically accommodated English version of the state’s mathematics, science, or social studies assessment if:

1. A Spanish-version assessment does not exist or is not the most appropriate measure of the student’s academic progress;
2. The student has not yet demonstrated English language proficiency in reading as determined by the English language proficiency assessments required above; and
3. The student has been enrolled in U.S. schools for three school years or less or qualifies as an unschooled asylee or refugee enrolled in U.S. schools for five school years or less.

Exemption for Asylee or Refugee

An unschooled asylee or refugee who meets the criteria discussed above shall be granted an exemption from an administration of an assessment instrument under Education Code 39.023(a), (b), or (l). This exemption will only apply during the school year an unschooled asylee or refugee is first enrolled in a U.S. public school.

19 TAC 101.1005(b), (c).

Refusal of Services

An ELL whose parent or guardian has declined bilingual education/ESL services is not eligible for special assessment, accommodation, or accountability provisions made available to ELLs on the basis of limited English proficiency. 19 TAC 101.1005(f).

Heritage Academy BOARD POLICY MANUAL

POLICY GROUP 2 - INSTRUCTION

STATE ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS PG-2.24

End-of-Course Assessments

An ELL shall participate in the end-of-course assessments as required by Education Code 39.023(c) and, except as provided below, shall be administered the general form of the English-version state assessment. 19 TAC 101.1005(b).

An ELL shall not be exempt from taking an end-of-course assessment for reasons associated with limited English proficiency or inadequate schooling outside the United States, except as provided below.

Exception

If an ELL enrolled in English I or English for Speakers of Other Languages I has not yet demonstrated English language proficiency in reading as determined by the English language proficiency assessments required above and has been enrolled in U.S. schools for three school years or less, or qualifies as an unschooled asylee or refugee enrolled in U.S. schools for five school years or less, then he or she shall not be required to retake the applicable English I assessment in which the student is enrolled each time it is administered if the student passes the course but fails to achieve the passing standard on the assessment.

19 TAC 101.1007(a), (b).

Exit-Level Assessments

Provisions related to exit-level assessments shall apply only to students first enrolled in grade 9 or higher prior to the 2011–12 school year, or first enrolled in grade 10 or higher in the 2011–12 school year. 19 TAC 101.1021.

Postponement

ELLs are not eligible for an exemption from exit-level testing requirements for graduation on the basis of limited English proficiency. However, ELLs who are recent immigrants may be granted a postponement of the administration of the exit-level assessment during their first 12 months of enrollment in U.S. schools. A postponement is not permitted if a student would otherwise not be afforded the opportunity to take the exit-level assessments at least one time before the student's scheduled graduation date. The LPAC shall document the reason for the postponement in the student's permanent record file. 19 TAC 101.1023

Limited LEP Exemptions

Certain ELLs who have had inadequate schooling outside the United States may be eligible for a LEP exemption from the assessment during a period not to exceed their first three school years of enrollment in U.S. schools. 19 TAC 101.1025(a).

An ELL who achieves a rating of advanced high on the state-administered English language proficiency assessment in reading during the student's first school year of enrollment in U.S. schools is not eligible for an exemption in the second or third

Heritage Academy BOARD POLICY MANUAL

POLICY GROUP 2 - INSTRUCTION

STATE ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS PG-2.24

school year of enrollment in U.S. schools. An ELL who achieves a rating of advanced or advanced high on this assessment during the student's second school year of enrollment in U.S. schools is not eligible for an exemption in the third school year of enrollment in U.S. schools. Education Code 39.027(e); 19 TAC 101.1025(a)(1).

During the first school year of enrollment in U.S. schools, the student may be granted a LEP exemption if the LPAC determines that the student has not had the schooling outside the United States necessary to provide the foundation of learning that Texas schools require and measure on the assessment, whether the foundation be in knowledge of the English language or specific academic skills and concepts in the subjects assessed. 19 TAC 101.1025(a)(2).

During the second and third school years of enrollment in U.S. schools, a student whose schooling outside the United States was inadequate may be granted a LEP exemption if the LPAC determines that the student lacks the academic language proficiency in English necessary for an assessment of academic skills in English to measure the student's academic progress in a valid, reliable manner. 19 TAC 101.1025(a)(3).

Federal Accountability

Students exempted under these provisions shall be administered assessments in subjects and grades required by federal law and regulations in accordance with linguistically accommodated testing procedures delineated in the test administration materials. 19 TAC 101.1025(c).

Refusal of Services

An ELL whose parent or guardian has declined bilingual/ESL services is not eligible for an exemption or an exit-level test postponement under 19 Administrative Code 101.1023. 19 TAC 101.1025(d).

Non-LEP Students

Heritage Academy may administer the assessment of academic skills in Spanish to a student who is not identified as LEP but who participates in a bilingual program if the LPAC determines the assessment in Spanish to be the most appropriate measure of the student's academic progress. 19 TAC 101.1005(g).

Special Education

For each ELL who receives special education services, the student's ARD committee in conjunction with the student's LPAC shall select the appropriate assessments.

Selecting Assessments

The ARD committee shall document the decisions and justifications in the student's individualized education program (IEP). 19 TAC 101.1005(a).

English Language Proficiency Tests

In rare cases, the ARD committee in conjunction with the LPAC may determine that it is not appropriate for an ELL who receives special education services to participate in an English language proficiency assessment required above for reasons associated with the student's particular disability. The ARD committee shall document the decisions and justifications in the student's IEP, and the LPAC shall document the decisions and justifications in the student's permanent record file. 19 TAC 101.1003(b).

In the case of an ELL learner who receives special education services, the ARD committee in conjunction with the LPAC shall determine and document the need for allowable testing accommodations in accordance with administrative procedures established by TEA. 19 TAC 101.1003(c).

Alternative Assessment Instruments

In certain cases, an ELL who receives special education services may, as a result of his or her particular disabling condition, qualify to be administered an alternative assessment instrument based on alternative achievement standards. 19 TAC 101.1005(b).

An unschooled asylee or refugee who meets these criteria shall be granted an exemption from an administration of an assessment instrument under Education Code 39.023(a), (b), or (l). This exemption will only apply during the school year an unschooled asylee or refugee is first enrolled in a U.S. public school. 19 TAC 101.1005(c).

Testing Accommodations

The LPAC in conjunction with the ARD committee shall determine and document any allowable testing accommodations for assessments in accordance with administrative procedures established by TEA. 19 TAC 101.1005(e).

Grade Advancement Requirements

The LPAC shall determine appropriate assessment and accelerated instruction for an ELL who is administered a grade advancement test in English or Spanish, except as provided by 19 Administrative Code 101.1005. The grade placement committee for an ELL shall make its decisions in consultation with a member of the student's LPAC. 19 TAC 101.2003(e).