

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAM POLICY

3.207

POLICY SECTIONS

- I. Purpose.
- II. English Language Proficiency Screener.
- III. English Language Proficiency Assessment.
- IV. Alternate English Language Proficiency Screener.
- V. Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment.

I. Purpose.

- (1) The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Policy provides additional details and further defines State Board Rule Chapter 0520-01-19 English as a Second Language Programs by establishing specific assessment and scoring requirements for the Tennessee Department of Education-adopted English language proficiency assessments.

II. English Language Proficiency Screener.

- (1) Non-English language background students shall be screened using the assessments identified in the table below and in accordance with procedures listed in State Board Rule 0520-01-19 English as a Second Language Programs.
- (2) Students who do not attain the necessary cut score shall be classified as English learners.
- (3) If a student who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is also a non-English language background student, the IEP team may exempt the student from domain(s) that are inaccessible due to the student's disability.

Student Grade Level	Name of Required Screener	Domains Screened	Cut Score (i.e., scoring <u>below</u> this point indicates the student qualifies as an English learner)
Kindergarten (first semester)	ELPA21	Reading Writing Listening Speaking	Below three (3) in any assessed domain
Kindergarten (second semester) through Grade 12	ELPA21	Reading Writing Listening Speaking	Below four (4) in any assessed domain

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III. English Language Proficiency Assessment.

- (1) English learners shall be assessed using the assessment identified in the table below and in accordance with procedures listed in State Board Rule 0520-01-19 English as a Second Language Programs.
- (2) Students who attain the required cut score shall be exited from direct or indirect ESL services.
- (3) If a student who has an IEP is also an EL student, the IEP team may exempt the student from domain(s) that are inaccessible due to the student's disability.
- (4) LEAs and schools may provide tailored services to students in grades 1-12 who score at least a level four (4) in the domains of reading, writing, and either listening or speaking.

Student Grade Level	Name of Required Assessment	Domains Assessed	Cut Score (i.e., students must achieve this score to be exited from Direct or Indirect ESL Services)
Kindergarten through Grade 12	ELPA21	Reading Writing Listening Speaking	A score of four (4) or above in all assessed domains

IV. Alternate English Language Proficiency Screener.

- (1) Non-English language background students who are identified in their IEP as requiring alternate assessments shall be screened using the assessment identified in the table below and in accordance with procedures listed in State Board Rule 0520-01-19 English as a Second Language Programs.
- (2) Students who do not attain the necessary cut score shall be classified as English learners.
- (3) If a student who has an IEP is also a non-English language background student, the IEP team may exempt the student from domain(s) that are inaccessible due to the student's disability.

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Student Grade Level	Name of Required Screener	Domains Screened	Cut Score (i.e., scoring <u>below</u> this point indicates the student qualifies as an English learner)
Kindergarten through Grade 12	ELPA21	Receptive modality (combined score for reading and listening domains) Productive modality (combined score for speaking and writing domains)	Below three (3) in any assessed modality

V. Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment.

- (1) English learners who are identified on their IEP as requiring alternate assessments shall be assessed using the assessments identified in the table below and in accordance with procedures listed in State Board Rule 0520-01-19 English as a Second Language Programs.
- (2) If a student who has an IEP is also an EL student, the IEP team may exempt the student from domain(s) that are inaccessible due to the student’s disability.
- (3) Students who attain the required cut score shall be exited from direct or indirect ESL services.

Student Grade Level	Name of Required Screener	Domains Assessed	Cut Score (i.e., students must achieve this score to be exited from Direct or Indirect ESL Services)
Kindergarten through Grade 12	ELPA21	Receptive modality (combined reading and listening) Productive modality (combined speaking and writing)	A score of three (3) or above in all assessed modalities