



ESL Program Policy & WIDA ACCESS

October 20, 2017

Agenda

- Framing and history of WIDA
- Review WIDA ACCESS cut score process
- Share Tennessee data analysis
- Request changes in State Board policy

New Test, New Scores, New Baseline

- Our English as a Second Language (ESL) cut scores are **more rigorous**, so students will be ready for academic work when exited from ESL.
- We believe ALL English learners (ELs) are capable of achieving the higher standards as measured on TNReady, and stronger exit scores from ESL services will make this more attainable for ELs.
- We expected scores to be lower for 2016-17; however, we **expect scores to rise in the long term.**
 - More importantly, this will mean that more of TN's ELs are equipped to be successful after high school.

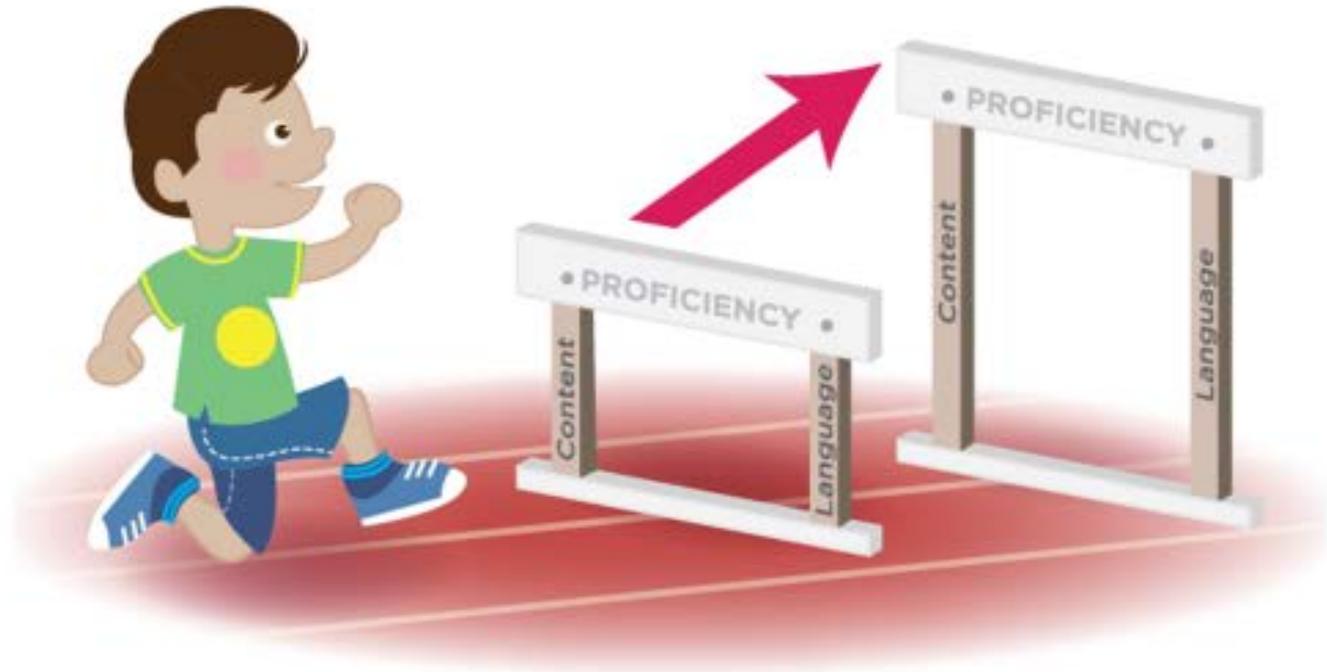
History of WIDA

- 2012 – Amplification of 2007 WIDA standards
- 2014 – WIDA standards adopted in TN
- 2015 – WIDA ACCESS 1.0 (paper and pencil assessment) administered
- 2016 – WIDA ACCESS 2.0 (online assessment) administered
- **2016 – WIDA standards setting for new assessment and changes across states in rigor of academic standards**
- 2017 – WIDA ACCESS 2.0 administered with new cut scores from standard setting applied

Why do we need new cut scores?

- WIDA went through a similar testing transition to TNReady – aligning ACCESS 2.0 to more rigorous standards.
- Standards setting after the 2016 administration set a level that represented the rigor to meet Tennessee’s academic standards.
- **Standards setting cut scores are now set at a level that better predicts success for skills needed for academic work in the general education setting.**
- Prior to the new cut score, 50 percent of ELs were reaching a level 6.0 on the speaking part – cut scores were too low.

Raising the bar for English language proficiency



Corresponding to the elevated content standards and assessments, expectations on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 are increasing. Each student will need rigorous and well developed "training" to prepare for and clear the higher hurdles.

The logo consists of a red square with the letters 'TN' in white, serif font. Below the red square is a dark blue horizontal bar.

TN

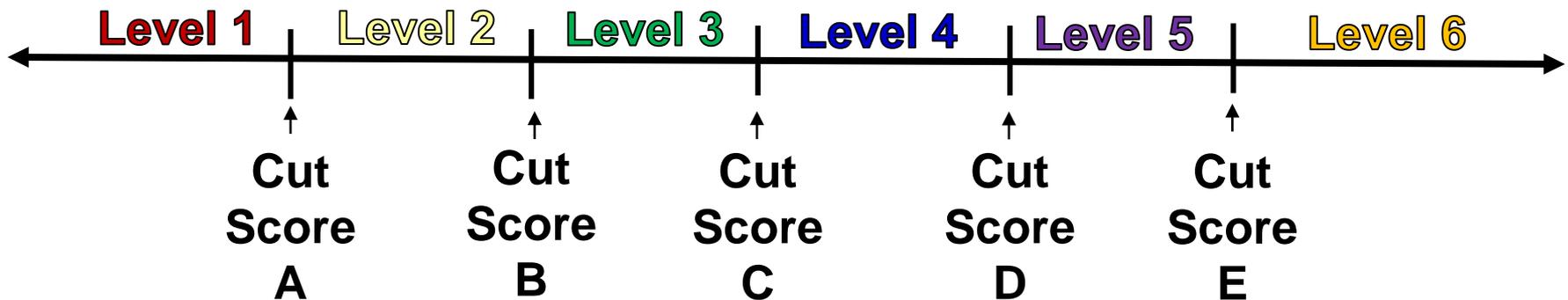
Process for Setting New Cut Scores

®

Scoring Process: Key Definitions

■ Cut Scores:

- The minimum score a student must earn to be considered at a certain performance level on WIDA ACCESS 2.0
- Cut scores are recommended by WIDA educator committee based on where they believe the “cut off” between the highest performing student in one level and the lowest performing student in another level would be.

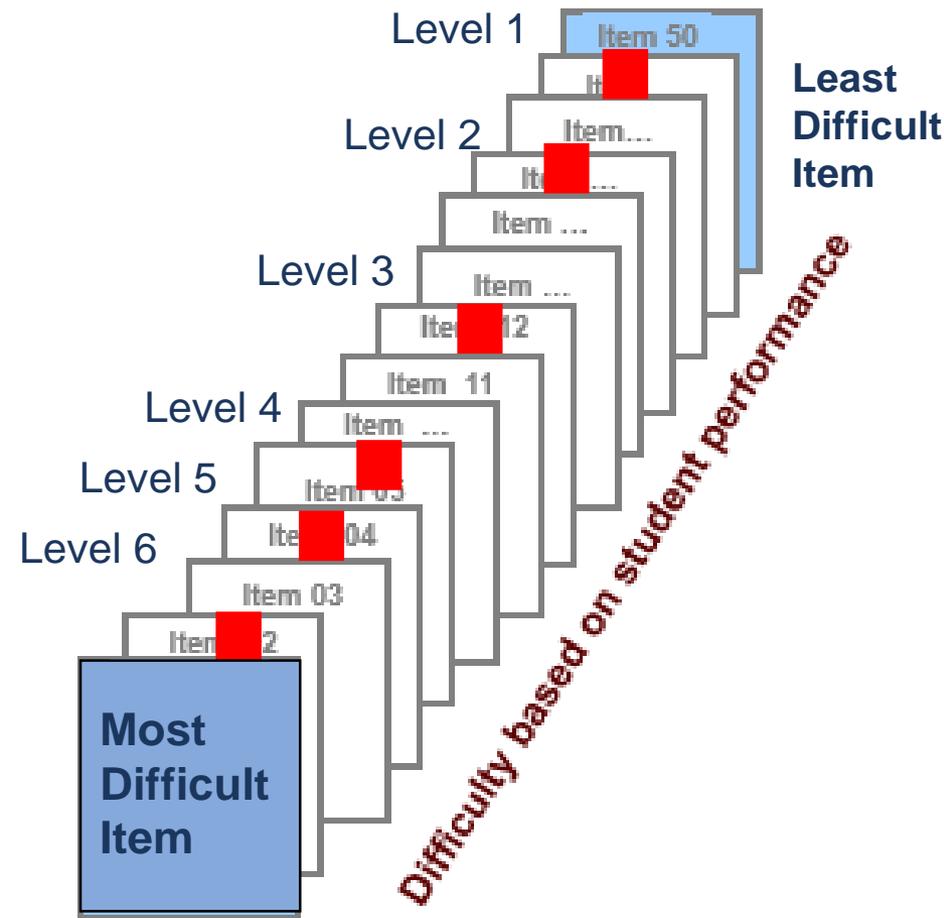


Scoring Process: Key Definitions

■ Overall Scores:

- This is the score a student receives that represents his or her overall achievement on WIDA ACCESS 2.0.
- There are **six performance levels**, and each describes the specific knowledge and skills that a student at a given performance level should be able to demonstrate.
- The descriptions represent the full range of students across an entire level.
 - Level 6 – Reaching
 - Level 5 – Bridging
 - Level 4 – Expanding
 - Level 3 – Developing
 - Level 2 – Beginning
 - Level 1 – Entering

Standard Setting: Ordered Item Booklets



- The difficulties of these items are based on **actual student performance**.
- Then these items are put in order from most difficult to least difficult.
- This process is completed by a committee of ESL educators

Standard Setting: Cut Score Bookmarks

- Based on the threshold performance-level from highest to lowest.
 - Threshold performance-level descriptors are the targets for student performance at each performance level
- The committee reviews the ordered item booklet and considers
 - item by item – **whether the target student would be able to answer the item correctly.**
- If not, the cut score marker is placed before that item.



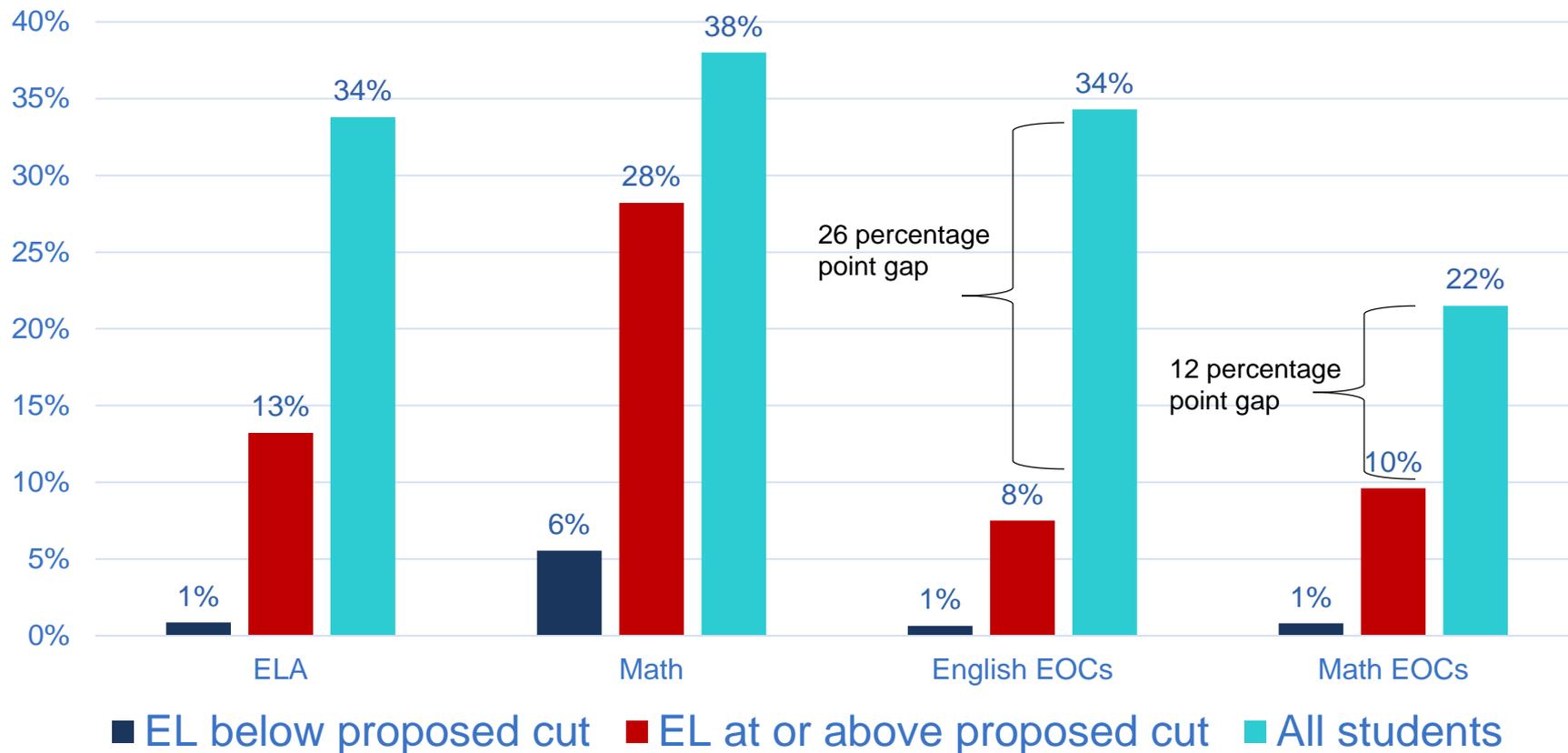
TN

**What does this mean
for Tennessee
students?**

®

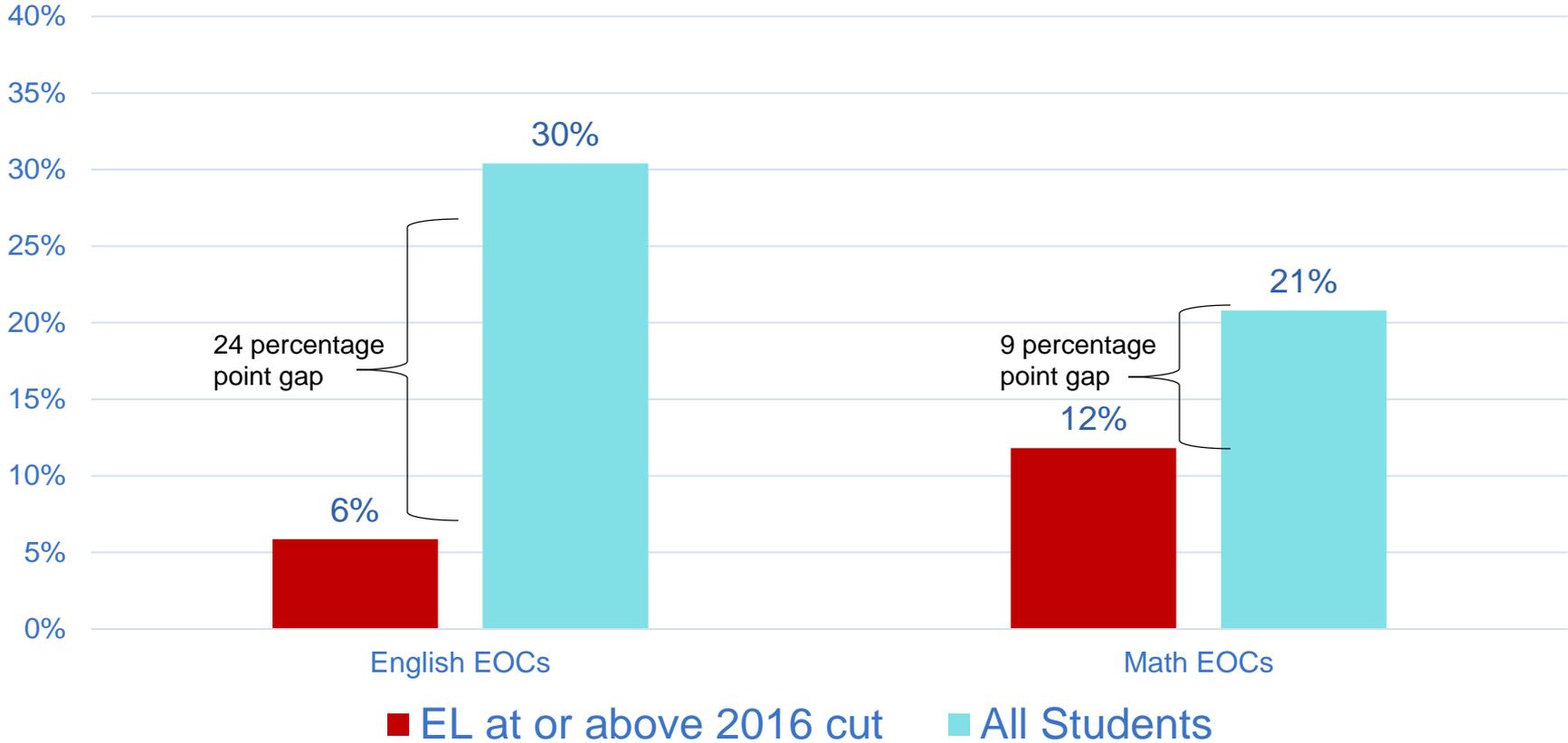
EL students at or above the proposed cut scores are far more likely to be On Track or Mastered on TNReady compared to EL students below the cut.

Percent On Track or Mastered 2017



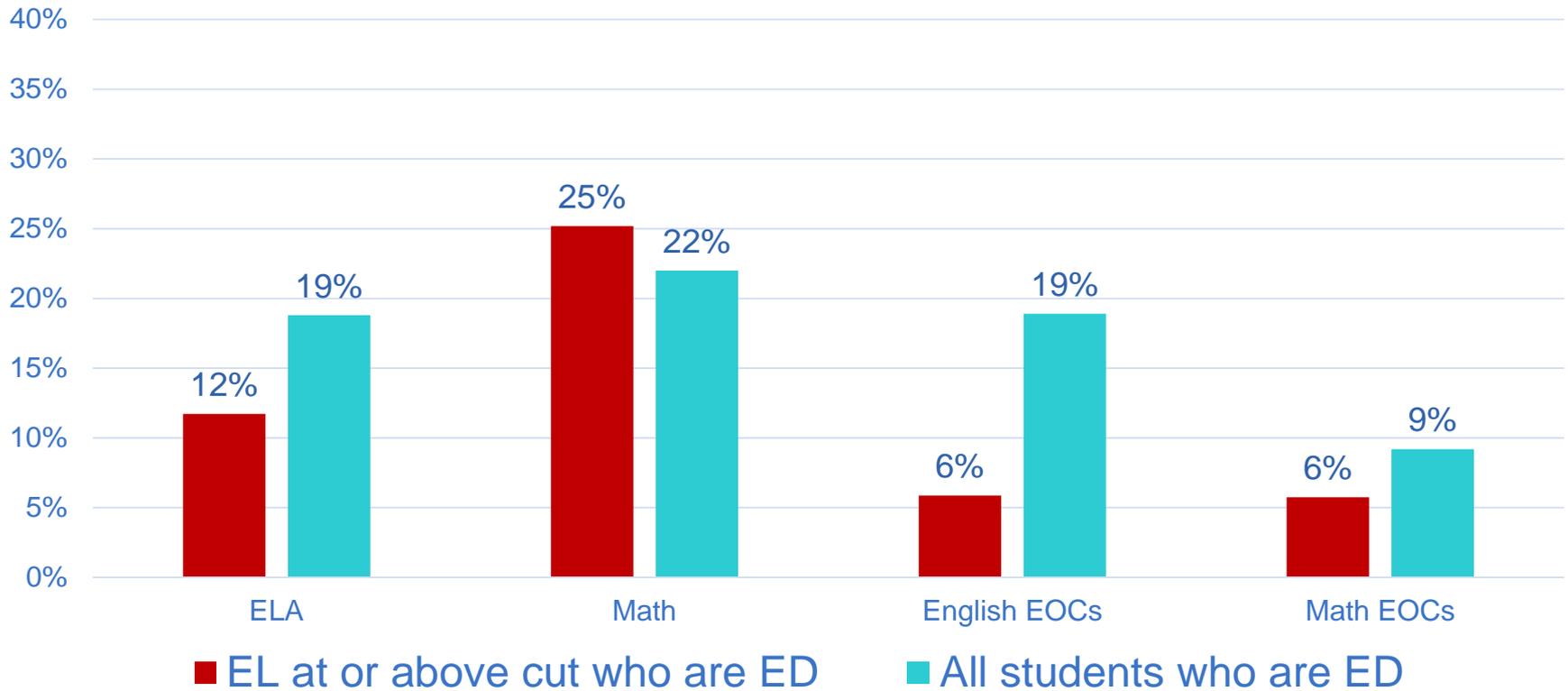
The size of the achievement gap between All Students and EL students who hit the 2016 SBE cut is similar to the gap using the 2017 proposed cuts.

Percent On Track or Mastered 2016



After adjusting for the effects of demographic differences, such as ED status, EL students at or above the new cuts were almost as likely as non-EL peers to score On Track or Mastered.

Percent On Track or Mastered for Economically Disadvantaged Students



The logo consists of a red square with the letters 'TN' in white, serif font. Below the square is a dark blue horizontal bar.

TN

**Follow-up from
August Meeting**

®

Follow-up Items

- Service Delivery
 - Update the minimum score for tailored services
 - **WIDA score of 3.5+**
 - Require training on WIDA standards for all teachers who serve ELs
 - Over 80 percent of an EL student's day is spent in the general education classroom
 - Individualized Learning Plans for all ELs
 - Describes the needs and goals specific to individual student and projected/expected growth

Follow-up Items

- Definitions
 - Individualized Learning Plan (ILP)
 - Long Term English Learners (LTELs)
 - Recently Arrived English Learners (RAELs)
 - Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE/SIFE)

Individualized Learning Plans (ILP)

- During the 2018-19 year, TN will require individualized learning plans be completed for each EL
- Meaningful interventions and strategies will be included in the ILP and implemented for each student
- Each student will have a growth trajectory based on student data and is expected to continue making growth until exit from ESL
- If adequate growth is not demonstrated, then an intervention will be prescribed and delivered within the semester or grading period



®

Questions?



Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.

Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork