



Essential Skills Option for English Learners

Essential Skills for English Language Learners OAR Revision

The State Board of Education’s recent amendment to the *Essential Skills for English Language Learners* OAR (581-022-0617) includes an important policy update for school districts that have adopted a policy allowing English Learners (ELs) to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in the students’ language of origin.

Policy Update

An EL student pursuing a diploma in 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 may demonstrate proficiency in the reading and/or writing Essential Skills in the student’s language of origin as long as criteria 1, 2, and 3 in Table 1 are met. The OAR amendment suspends the minimum English language proficiency criterion (criterion 4 in Table 1) for students seeking a diploma in 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 and this suspension will sunset on August 31, 2018.

Table 1 summarizes the language of origin criteria and the accessibility supports for Work Samples.

Table 1. Essential Skills Criteria and Supports for English Learner Students

	Reading and Writing	Mathematics
Work Sample Accessibility Support Criteria <i>For students pursuing a diploma in the 2016-17 or 2017-18 school years</i>	<i>The EL student must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be on track to meet all other graduation requirements; 2. Be unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English; and 3. Have been enrolled in a U.S. school for five years or fewer. 	<i>The EL student must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be on track to meet all other graduation requirements; and 2. Unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English.
Work Sample Accessibility Support Criteria <i>For students who will be pursuing a diploma after August 31, 2018</i>	<i>The EL student must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be on track to meet all other graduation requirements; 2. Be unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English; 3. Have been enrolled in a U.S. school for five years or fewer; and 4. Have demonstrated sufficient English language ability using the English language proficiency assessment. 	<i>The EL student must:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be on track to meet all other graduation requirements; and 2. Unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English.
Work Sample Language of Origin Accessibility Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive a reading Work Sample prompt, which includes the reading text, in his or her language of origin. • Write his or her response in his or her language of origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write his or her response in his or her language of origin.

Additional Language of Origin Work Sample Supports

In addition, there are also two Work Sample language of origin designated supports that are available to any student for whom an adult or team working with the parent/guardian and student has documented the need. These include that a student can:

- Receive written translations of oral directions.
- Receive written translation of the writing and/or math Work Sample prompt. (Translations must be written in advance and may be read aloud to the student.)

Scoring Work Samples In Languages Other Than English

School districts that administer Work Samples in languages other than English must develop procedures to ensure that the Work Samples are scored by a rater who is endorsed by the school district as proficient in the language and trained to a high degree of proficiency in scoring Work Samples.

Next Steps

An Essential Skills achievement standard has not been established on the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) so there is not currently a method for students to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the minimum English language proficiency criterion. Over the next year ODE will continue to work with the Assessment of Essential Skills Review Panel, the State Board of Education, and stakeholders to review the English language proficiency criterion as a part of the Essential Skills graduation requirement to ensure there is an appropriate policy in place for students pursuing a diploma after August 31, 2018.

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