

English Language Proficiency

What English language proficiency?

English language proficiency is a student's ability to communicate in English as demonstrated in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Idaho measures English language proficiency using the annual ACCESS 2.0 assessment and the Alternate ACCESS assessment.

Why is English language proficiency important?

English language proficiency is critical in ensuring that students are able to access core academic content and receive necessary educational supports to meet their specific needs. Acquiring strong English skills can reduce barriers that limit learning opportunities for English Learners, in – and out of the classroom.

How will Idaho calculate English language proficiency for school accountability?

The ACCESS 2.0 assessment measures English language skills in four (4) domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Student performance on these four domains is combined to generate a composite score that is described as one of six (6) performance levels. A student is proficient if his/her composite score is 5 or above.

Number of students who score at Level 5 or above

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The total number of continuously enrolled English Learners who received a valid score on the ACCESS 2.0 assessment

For students participating in the Alternate ACCESS assessment, the proficiency threshold is level P2 or above.

The state reports the percentage of students who are English Learners reaching proficiency. Note that this measure is not the exit criteria for English Learners, which incorporates scores in each domain along with the overall composite score. Consequently, a student may be "proficient" in this measure but still be identified as an English Learner.

The description above applies to calculations using historical ACCESS 2.0 data from SY 2018-2019 and earlier. Starting in SY 2019-2020, Idaho will use a new methodology to measure English Learner performance and growth.

DATA SOURCES

English language proficiency is based on the results from the ACCESS 2.0 assessments administered between January 28 and March 8, 2019.

Growth determinations are derived using the student's current scale score compared to previous year scale score.

Questions? Contact the Assessment & Accountability team at assessments@sde.idaho.gov

