

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 and Alternate ACCESS assessments.

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 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 on the ACCESS assessment if his/her composite score is 4.2 or above and scores at least a 3.5 on the listening, reading, and writing domains and at least a 1 on the speaking domain.

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

Idaho will calculate the English language proficiency rate as follows:

Number of students who were proficient on the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS assessments

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The total number of continuously enrolled English Learners who received a valid score on the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS assessments

Note that this proficiency measure is also the new exit criteria for English Learners.

The description above applies to calculations using ACCESS data starting in SY 2019-2020. In previous years, Idaho used a different methodology to measure English Learner performance and growth.

DATA SOURCES

English language proficiency is based on the results from the ACCESS assessments administered between January 27 and March 6, 2020.

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

