Serving English Language Learners and Families
About the National Charter School Resource Center

[Website Link]

Funded through the U.S. Department of Education

Makes accessible high-quality resources to support the charter school sector
Agenda (1)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Context
- Review of Data on ELs and ELs in Charter Schools
- Overview of the Guidance, Fact Sheets, and Civil Rights Data Collection
- Introduction to Toolkit
- Q&A
Presenters

Mukta Pandit
President of Safal Partners, Project Director, National Charter School Resource Center

Carolyn Seugling
U.S. Department of Education, Attorney in the Office for Civil Rights

Marianna Vinson
U.S. Department of Education, Deputy Director of the Office of English Language Acquisition
Webinar Logistics

- Please use the chat feature to post questions
- Questions will be answered during Q&A
- Use chat for help with technical issues
- Reference materials for today’s topic
- Webinar recordings will be available on the NCSRC website (www.charterschoolcenter.org)
Agenda (2)

✓ Welcome and Introductions

➤ Context

➤ Review of Data on ELs and ELs in Charter Schools

➤ Overview of the Guidance, Fact Sheets, and Civil Rights Data Collection

➤ Introduction to Toolkit

➤ Q&A
ELs constitute one of the fastest growing demographic groups among school children in the U.S.

Federal laws and statutes provide legal framework governing the education of ELs in public schools

Charter schools are required to follow these laws and statues

Recently published ED and DoJ guidance and resources provide insight into charter schools’ obligations towards ELs and their families
Agenda (3)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Context
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- Q&A
Disclaimer

This presentation provides general information and does not represent a complete recitation of the applicable law and ED or DoJ policy in this area. It does not provide specific determinations of compliance, which depend on specific facts and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The language used in these slides is approved for purposes of this presentation only and should not be used for other purposes.
Number of K-12 English Learners SY 2002-2013

Percentage Change in Number of ELs SYs 2004-05 to 2011-12

Percentage Change in Number of ELs SYs 2004-05 to 2011-12

**Student Enrollment**
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.5%
- Asian: 5%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander: 16%
- Black/African American: 24%
- Hispanic: 2%
- Two or more races: 0.5%
- White: 51%

**EL Students**
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 3.5%
- Asian: 11.0%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander: 0.7%
- Black/African American: 11.0%
- Hispanic: 5.5%
- Two or more races: 0.6%
- White: 77.7%
NAEP Grade 8 Reading Scores for ELs and Non-ELs: 2003-2013 (1)

NAEP Grade 8 Reading Scores for ELs and Non-ELs: 2003-2013 (2)

High School Graduation Rates by Student Group

Number of Charter Schools, by State, Including DC: SY 2011-12

Number of ELs in Charter Schools, by State, Including DC: SY 2011-12

# States with the Largest Numbers of EL Charter School Students: SY 2011-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Charter Schools</th>
<th>Number of Charter School Students</th>
<th>Number of ELs in Charter Schools</th>
<th>Percentage of Charter School Students who Were ELs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>392,149</td>
<td>72,655</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>173,143</td>
<td>31,215</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>181,051</td>
<td>14,616</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>115,118</td>
<td>7,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>139,544</td>
<td>7,836</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>81,921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>90,606</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>59,880</td>
<td>6,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49,337</td>
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<td>8.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>62,505</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Agenda (4)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Context
- Review of Data on ELs and ELs in Charter Schools
  - Overview of the Guidance, Fact Sheets, and Civil Rights Data Collection
  - Introduction to Toolkit
  - Q&A
OCR Mission & Activities

Mission: to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights.

Activities:
- Complaint investigations
- Compliance reviews
- Policy guidance
- Technical assistance
Laws Enforced by OCR

OCR enforces federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of:

<p>| | |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race, color, national origin</td>
<td>Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972</td>
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<td>Disability</td>
<td>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973</td>
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<td>Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990</td>
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<td>Age</td>
<td>The Age Discrimination Act of 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patriotic youth group status</td>
<td>Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act</td>
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</table>
Dear Colleague letter

Jointly Released by ED and DOJ on January 7, 2015 Available: http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/ellresources.html

Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 (EEOA)

Public schools must ensure that EL students can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs.

Guidance is available in multiple languages.
Overview of EL guidance

Purpose of the Guidance

- Eliminates confusion between Title VI, EEOA and Title III
- Reminds SEAs, LEAS of their legal obligations to EL students and parents
- Suggest ways SEAs and School Districts can meet those obligations
- Discusses the ten most frequent Civil Rights Issues that arise in the context of EL students and parents
What Is the Legal Basis for the Guidance?

- Title VI prohibits recipients of Federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

- The EEOA requires SEAs and school districts to take “appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by [their] students in [their] instructional programs.” 20 U.S.C. § 1703(f).

- *Castañeda v. Pickard, 648 F.2d 989 (5th Cir. 1981)*
  - The educational theory underlying the language assistance program is recognized as sound by some experts in the field or is considered a legitimate experimental strategy;
  - The program and practices used by the school system are reasonably calculated to implement effectively the educational theory adopted by the school; and
  - The program succeeds, after a legitimate trial, in producing results indicating that students’ language barriers are actually being overcome within a reasonable period of time.
Audience Question 1

What type of organization do I work at?
A. Charter School
B. LEA
C. Charter Support Organization
D. Traditional Public School

I am a:
A. Teacher
B. Administrator
C. Director
D. Other
Is this Guidance Applicable to Me?

- The Guidance Applies to:
  - SEAs;
  - LEAs’; and
  - any “school district” that is a recipient of Federal financial assistance from ED including:
    - Public School Districts
    - Public Charter Schools
    - Public Alternative Schools
Ten Main Civil Rights Issues Covered by the EL Guidance

1. Identification and assessment
2. Language assistance program
3. Staffing and supporting an EL program
4. Meaningful access to curricular and extra curricular programs
5. Unnecessary segregation
6. Evaluating EL students for special education & providing special education
7. Opting out of EL programs
8. Monitoring and exiting EL students
9. Evaluating the effectiveness of a program
10. Meaningful communication with LEP parents
Audience Question 2

- Out of the 10 main civil rights issues covered in the EL guidance, which one am I most interested to learn about today?
- Out of the 10 main civil rights issues covered in the EL guidance, which one does my school have the most difficulty with?
A. Identifying and Assessing Potential EL Students

School districts must have procedures in place to accurately and timely identify potential EL students.
- Home Language Survey

Once identified, school districts must determine if potential EL students are in fact EL through a valid and reliable test:
- Test must assess English language proficiency in:
  - Speaking, listening, reading, and writing

School districts must provide notices within thirty days from the beginning of the school year to all parents.
B. Providing Language Assistance to EL Students

- EL students are entitled to appropriate language assistance services to:
  - become proficient in English; and
  - participate equally in the standard instructional program within a reasonable period of time.

- School districts can choose among EL programs
  - Program must meet Castañeda standard, i.e.,
    - be educationally sound in theory and effective in practice
  - To select an appropriate program consider each EL student’s:
    - English proficiency, grade level, educational background, language background, and other relevant factors.
C. Staffing and Supporting an EL Program

El programs must have sufficient resources to ensure they can be effectively implemented, including:

- Adequate number of highly qualified EL teachers
- Support staff
- Administrators
- Appropriate instructional materials at appropriate English proficiency and grade levels
- Appropriate bilingual materials
D. Providing Meaningful Access to All Curricular and Extracurricular Programs

- EL students must have access to their grade-level curricula so that they can meet promotion and graduation requirements.

- EL students are entitled to an equal opportunity to participate in all programs including:
  - Pre-kindergarten
  - Magnet programs
  - Charter schools
  - Gifted and talented programs
  - Career and technical education
  - Arts & Athletics
  - Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses
  - Clubs and Honor Societies
E. Avoiding Unnecessary Segregation of EL Students (1)

- School districts generally may not segregate students on the basis of national origin or EL status.
- Schools districts and states are expected to carry out their chosen program in the least segregated manner consistent with achieving the program’s stated educational goals.
E. Avoiding Unnecessary Segregation of EL Students (2)

OCR considers whether:

- entry and exit into a segregated EL program model are voluntary;
- the program is reasonably designed to provide EL students comparable access to the standard curriculum;
- EL students in the program have the same range and level of extracurricular activities and additional services as do students in other environments; and
- whether the district at least annually assesses the English proficiency and appropriate level of language assistance services for its EL students and determines their eligibility to exit from the EL program based on valid and reliable exit criteria.
F. Evaluating EL Students for Special Education and Providing Dual Services

- EL students with disabilities must be provided with both:
  - Language Assistance and
  - Disability-related services they are entitled to

- EL students who may have a disability must be located, identified and evaluated for special education and disability-related services in a timely manner

- EL students must be evaluated in an appropriate language based on the student’s needs and language skills

- The IEP Team should include participants knowledgeable about the EL student’s language needs
G. Meeting the Needs of Students Who Opt Out of EL Programs or Particular Services (1)

› Parents may choose to opt their children out of a school district’s EL program or out of particular EL services within an EL program.

› School districts may not recommend that parents opt out for any reason.

› School districts should appropriately document that the parent made a voluntary, informed decision to opt their child out.

› Parents are entitled to guidance in a language they can understand about their child’s rights, the range of EL services that their child could receive, and the benefits of such services.
G. Meeting the Needs of Students Who Opt Out of EL Programs or Particular Services (2)

- A school district must still take steps to provide opted-out EL students with access to its educational programs, monitor their progress, and offer EL services again if a student is struggling.
H. Monitoring and Exiting EL Students from EL Programs and Services

- School districts must monitor the progress of all EL students to ensure they achieve English language proficiency and acquire content knowledge within a reasonable period of time.

- Districts must annually administer a valid and reliable English language proficiency (ELP) assessment, in reading, writing, listening and speaking, that is aligned to State ELP standards.

- An EL student must not be exited from EL programs, services, or status until he or she demonstrates English proficiency on an ELP assessment in speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
I. Evaluating the Effectiveness of a District’s EL Program

- School districts must monitor and compare, over time, the academic performance of EL students in the program and those who exited the program, relative to that of their never-EL peers;

- School districts must evaluate EL programs over time using accurate data to assess the educational performance of current and former EL students in a comprehensive and reliable way; and

- School districts must timely modify their programs when needed.
LEP parents are entitled:

- To meaningful communication with the school in a language they can understand; and
- To adequate notice of information about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of non-LEP parents.

School districts must develop and implement a process for determining:

- whether parents are limited English proficient; and
- identifying their language needs.
J. Ensuring Meaningful Communication with LEP Parents (2)

- Schools must provide translation or interpretation from appropriate and competent individuals who may be on staff or an outside individual.
- Schools may not rely on or ask students, siblings, friends, or untrained school staff to translate or interpret for parents.
- Language assistance must be free.
Examples of Guidance’s Applicability in Charter School Context

 ► OCR EL Charter School Compliance Review

 ► OCR resolved a compliance review of fifteen charter schools operated by a school district in the Midwest.

 ► The review examined, among other things, provision of alternative language services to EL students and communication with limited English proficient parents and guardians. The district reached a settlement agreement with OCR to resolve compliance issues that may have prevented EL students from receiving equal educational opportunities at those charter schools within the district.
Fact Sheets

- OCR created two fact sheets:
  - Ensuring English Learner Students Can Participate Meaningfully and Equally in Educational Programs
    - This fact sheet provides an overview of the joint guidance, but does not attempt to comprehensively address all of the issues in the guidance.
    - The fact sheet focuses on the responsibilities of school districts.
  - Information for Limited English Proficient Parents and for Schools and School Districts that Communicate with Them
    - This fact sheet answers common questions about the rights of parents and guardians who do not speak, listen, read, or write English proficiently because it is not their primary language.
  - The fact sheets are available in ten languages.
The Civil Rights Data Collection collected data on nearly 5 million English learners in the 2011-12 SY.

Across the nation, Hispanic students represented most of the EL population (77.7%) and Asian students represented about 11% of EL students. However, the district-level composition of EL students can vary greatly.

- 11,230 LEAs reported at least one LEP student enrolled.
- In 2% of these districts, non-Hispanic students represented more than 50% of EL students.

Source: Civil Rights Data Collection
English Learner Students: Statistics from the Civil Rights Data Collection (2)

➢ The 2011-12 CRDC included nearly 97,000 schools.

➢ 75% of these school reported at least one English learner enrolled.

➢ 68% of all public schools reported at least one English learner enrolled in an English Language Instruction Program.

➢ Source: Civil Rights Data Collection
Data Collected in the CRDC

**Enrollment & School Characteristics**
- Overall Enrollment
- Prekindergarten
- IDEA and Section 504
- Interscholastic Athletics
- Single Sex Classes

**Staffing & Resources**
- Teacher Experience
- Teacher Absenteeism
- Teacher Certification
- School Counselors
- School-level Expenditures

**Pathways to College & Career**
- Early Childhood Education
- Gifted & Talented
- Algebra I Enrollment and Passing by grade 7 or 8, 9 or 10, 11 or 12
- Student Retention by grade

**College & Career Readiness**
- Geometry: courses & enrollment
- Algebra II: courses & enrollment
- Other Advanced Mathematics: courses & enrollment
- Calculus: courses & enrollment
- Biology: courses & enrollment
- Chemistry: courses & enrollment
- Physics: courses & enrollment
- AP: Courses, Test-taking, and Test-Passing
- IB Enrollment
- SAT/ACT

**Discipline, Bullying & Harassment, Restraint & Seclusion**
- Corporal punishment
- Suspensions: in-school and out-of-school
- Expulsions: with & without ed. services, zero tolerance
- Referrals to law enforcement & school-related arrests
- Students subjected to and instances of mechanical restraint, physical restraint, and seclusion
- Bullying and harassment on the basis of sex, national origin, and disability
Find Data for Your Districts
New EL Report (1)
New EL Report (2)

Of the students enrolled in each race/ethnicity category, what proportion is LEP?

19.0% of female students are LEP and 21.3% of male students are LEP.

Compared to public school enrollment, what proportion of LEP students are also served under IDEA?

- Enrollment (PK-12): 10.0% LEP (Non-IDEA 90.0%, IDEA 10.0%)
- Students who are LEP: 8.9% (Non-IDEA 91.1%, IDEA 8.9%)
New EL Report (3)

Compared to the LEP population, what is the race/ethnicity of students enrolled in English Language Instruction Educational Programs?

District Students who are LEP

Students Enrolled in LEP Programs

Of the LEP students enrolled in the district in each race/ethnicity category, what proportion is participating in English Language Instruction Educational programs?

100.0% of female LEP students are participating in LEP programs and 100.0% of male LEP students are participating.
New EL Report (4)

Compared to overall enrollment, what proportion of students who are enrolled in Early Childhood programs are LEP?

- District Enrollment (PK-12)
  - LEP: 20.1%
  - Non-LEP: 79.9%

- Early Childhood Enrollment
  - LEP: 50.4%
  - Non-LEP: 49.6%

Compared to overall enrollment, what proportion of students who are enrolled in gifted and talented programs are LEP?

- District Enrollment (PK-12)
  - LEP: 20.1%
  - Non-LEP: 79.9%

- Students in Gifted/Talented Programs
  - LEP: 1.7%
  - Non-LEP: 98.3%
New EL Report (5)
New EL Report (6)

**SAT or ACT Test-Taking**

Compared to overall enrollment, what proportion of students who took the SAT or ACT are LEP?

- **District Enrollment (PK-12)**
  - Total: 350523
  - LEP: 20.1%
  - Non-LEP: 79.9%

- **Students taking the SAT or ACT**
  - Total: 26039
  - LEP: 4.3%
  - Non-LEP: 95.7%

**Advanced Placement**

Compared to overall enrollment, what proportion of students who are enrolled in AP courses are LEP?

- **District Enrollment (PK-12)**
  - Total: 350523
  - LEP: 20.1%
  - Non-LEP: 79.9%

- **Students in at least one AP Course**
  - Total: 24465
  - LEP: 6.4%
  - Non-LEP: 93.6%
New EL Report (7)

Compared to overall enrollment, what proportion of students who were suspended or expelled are LEP?

- **District Enrollment (PK-12)**
  - LEP: 20.1%
  - Non-LEP: 79.9%

- **In-School Suspensions**
  - LEP: 7.0%
  - Non-LEP: 93.0%

- **Out-of-School Suspensions**
  - LEP: 7.6%
  - Non-LEP: 92.4%

- **Expulsions**
  - Data Unavailable
New EL Report (8)
Options for Involving OCR

➤ File a Complaint
   ➤ A complaint may be filed by mail or fax with any OCR office or by using OCR’s electronic complaint form at www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintintro.html

➤ Request Technical Assistance from OCR
   ➤ Contact OCR’s office serving your state by phone or email with questions, concerns, or requests.
   ➤ For contact information visit www.ed.gov/ocr or call OCR’s customer service team at 1-800-421-3481.
Agenda (5)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Context
- Review of Data on ELs and ELs in Charter Schools
- Overview of the Guidance, Fact Sheets, and Civil Rights Data Collection
  - Introduction to Toolkit
  - Q&A
This is the first chapter of the English Learner Tool Kit, which is intended to help state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) in meeting their obligations to English Learners (ELs). This tool kit should be read in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice’s joint guidance, “English Learner Students and Limited English Proficient Parents,” which outlines SEAs’ and LEAs’ legal obligations to EL students under civil rights laws and other federal requirements.

IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL ENGLISH LEARNERS

KEY POINTS
- LEAs must identify in a timely manner EL students in need of language assistance services.
- The home language survey (HLS) is the most common tool used to identify potential ELs.
- An HLS must be administered effectively to ensure accurate results.
IDENTIFYING ALL ENGLISH LEARNERS

TOOLS

The U.S. Department of Education does not mandate or prescribe particular curricula, lesson plans, assessments, or other instruments in this tool kit. Rather, this tool kit contains examples, adaptations of, and links to resources created and maintained by other public and private organizations. This information is provided for the reader’s convenience and is included here as an example of the many resources that educators, parents, advocates, administrators, and other concerned parties may find helpful and use at their discretion. The U.S. Department of Education does not control or guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of this outside information. Further, the inclusion of links to resources does not reflect their importance, nor is such inclusion intended to endorse any views expressed or materials provided.

HOME LANGUAGE SURVEYS

The following information about home language surveys is provided for the reader’s convenience and is included here to offer examples. LEAs are reminded to check with their SEAs to see if a particular HLS is prescribed, and, if so, what the current version is.
The following home language surveys are provided for the reader’s convenience and also included here as examples of such surveys. The inclusion of these examples, or of links to resources, does not reflect their importance, nor is their inclusion intended to endorse any views expressed, or materials provided in them. LEAs should check if their SEA prescribes a particular home language survey because SEAs often do and also continually update them.

**SAMPLE #1**

**Home Language Survey**

To make sure that all students receive the education services they need, the law requires us to ask questions about students’ language backgrounds. The answers to Section A below will tell us if a student’s proficiency in English should be evaluated and help us to ensure that important opportunities to receive programs and services are offered to students who need them. The answers to Section B below will help us communicate with you regarding the student and all school matters in the language you prefer.

**Student’s Name: ___________________________**  
**Date of Birth: ____________________________**

**SECTION A: Please answer the questions below.**

1. What are the primary languages used in the home regardless of the language spoken by the student? *(Select up to three.)*

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<tr>
<th>Language</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>English</td>
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<td>Vietnamese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. What is the language most often spoken by the student? *(Select only one.)*

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<tbody>
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3. What is the language that the student first acquired? *(Select only one.)*

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EL Tool Kit (4) – Resources

IDENTIFYING ALL ENGLISH LEARNERS

The U.S. Department of Education does not mandate or prescribe particular curricula, lesson plans, assessments, or other instruments in this tool kit. Rather, this tool kit contains examples, adaptations of, and links to resources created and maintained by other public and private organizations. This information is provided for the reader’s convenience and is included here as an example of the many resources that educators, parents, advocates, administrators, and other concerned parties may find helpful and use at their discretion. The U.S. Department of Education does not control or guarantee the accuracy, relevance, timeliness, or completeness of this outside information. Further, the inclusion of links to resources does not reflect their importance, nor is such inclusion intended to endorse any views expressed, or materials provided.


This article addresses issues concerning the assessment, identification, and classification of ELs with disabilities. Accommodations for ELs with disabilities are discussed and recommendations for more accessible assessments for these students are provided.


This document guides the creation of enhanced home language surveys to better discriminate between students in the general k–12 student population who may need further assessment or placement in English language support services. It also provides a validity argument that the responses to new items will produce meaningful information so that an HLS can be more effectively used for its intended purpose of initially identifying the EL student population.

Bailey, A. and Kelly, K. (2010). The use and validity of...
Agenda (6)

✔ Welcome and Introductions
✔ Context
✔ Review of Data on ELs and ELs in Charter Schools
✔ Overview of the Guidance, Fact Sheets, and Civil Rights Data Collection
✔ Introduction to Toolkit
➤ Q&A
Questions & Answers

> Please remember to submit any questions in the chat box so that we may address your concerns.
Links to Additional Resources

- ED and DoJ Guidance on English Language Learners

- Tools and Resources for Identifying all ELs
  - http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/eltoolkitchap1.pdf

- Schools’ Civil Rights Obligations to English Learner Students and Limited English Proficient Parents
  - http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/ellresources.html

- NCSRC Report: Legal Guidelines For Educating English Learners In Charter Schools

- NCSRC Report: Engaging English Learner Families In Charter Schools
  - www.charterschoolcenter.org/resource/engaging-english-learner-families-charter-schools

- NCSRC EL Case Studies:
  - http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/case-studies/all
Contact

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Thank You!