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### Definitions

**ESL**  
English As a Second Language (program)

**ELL**  
English Language Learner (student)

**TESOL**  
Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages

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# ESL Update

## Identification of ELLs

English Language Learners are identified by the Home Language Survey, which is administered to every child in the district. The survey is PDE's method of identifying students who may need ESL services. There are three questions on the survey: What was the student's first language? Does the student speak a language other than English? What language(s) is/are spoken in your home? If the answer to any of these questions is other than English, the student is identified in need of assessment to be considered for the ESL program. Since the administration of the survey, T/E has identified over 200 students in need of assessment.

## Assessment

There are three assessments for English Language Learners:

**IPT:** The Idea Proficiency Test is the assessment tool used as the entry and exit criteria for the district's ESL program. This test is administered by the ESL teacher before the student enters the program and at the end of every academic year to determine placement for the following school year.

**PSSA:** Every ELL must take the PSSA if it is offered to students in his/her grade level.

**State Assessment:** To meet the NCLB federal requirement, every ELL must also take the Stanford English Language Proficiency Test. This test provides PDE with information on a child's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). This year's testing window is May 19-30, 2003.

## Curriculum & Instruction

The state requires that an ESL curriculum be written based on sound theory and aligned to PA State Language Arts Standards as well as National TESOL standards. This curriculum takes the place of LA/English instruction for the ELL. This board-approved curriculum is due to PDE by September 1, 2003.

In order to teach ELLs, ESL teachers must acquire an ESL Program Specialist Certificate by September 2004.

All subject area teachers must adapt their curriculum and instruction for ELLs to meet the required state standards needed for graduation.

## Support

- Contact your ESL teacher or the ESL supervisor if you need ideas in adapting your curriculum.
- A workshop on Teaching English Language Learners will be offered in the fall to all teachers.

