



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

Pre-school Students and Language Status

All students enrolling in an Indiana elementary school for the first time, including preschool programs that are part of the elementary school, are to be administered the Home Language Survey. The native language and language(s) used by the preschool student is vital information for preschool staff and has to be taken into consideration during any testing, including determination for special education services, if applicable.

Since preschool students who are English learners are not reported to the U.S. Department of Education and subsequently do not generate Title III funding under 3114 (a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the ESSA, then LEAs are not required to administer a language assessment for preschool students who have a language other than English identified on their HLS. However, preschool students who were born outside of the U.S. or its territories and immigrated to the U.S. are reported as immigrant students via Data Exchange, whether or not they are English learners.

LEAs have the option of providing Title III services to preschool students who have identified a language other than English on their Home Language Survey; however, this is not a requirement but rather a local decision.

LEAs also have the option of administering a locally chosen assessment for preschool students that are 4 years old. The student's score on this assessment will not be reported to the IDOE as the student's English proficiency level but shall be used for informational purposes only. No preschool student will take the WIDA Kindergarten Screener as this is strictly for kindergarten use.

At the time of kindergarten enrollment by preschool students who previously identified a language other than English on their Home Language Survey, licensed EL staff must administer the WIDA Kindergarten Screener no later than 30 days from the beginning of the school year. The Kindergarten Screener determines if a student qualifies for EL services. EL staff must utilize the Kindergarten Screener given during Kindergarten enrollment, as this required assessment will give the most accurate level of current English proficiency for the student.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Office of English Learning and Migrant Education

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