

Provisional EL:

a newly enrolled student who has been identified as an EL using the Home Language Survey and the Family Interview

In the event of school facility closures, it is essential that school systems continue to determine if students entering Kindergarten through grade 12 for the first time are English Learners (ELs) who require supplementary support services to continue developing language proficiency in English. The following guidance can be used to facilitate the identification of English Learners and to determine if EL services are needed when it is not possible to administer the [English Language Proficiency Screener \(ELPS\)](#) to newly-enrolling students who meet the [criteria](#) of a potential EL.

Steps to Provisional EL Identification

1. All newly-enrolled students (including entering Kindergarten students) should receive a [Home Language Survey \(HLS\)](#) as part of their new student registration packet.
2. If a parent/guardian indicates a language other than English for any of the answers, the school system should conduct the [Family Interview](#) to gather more information about the student's language use.
3. If both the HLS and the [Family Interview](#) indicate that the student is in need of English language services based on extremely limited English use at home, then the student will be identified as a "Provisional EL". School systems should identify the student as EL in SIS.
4. The parents/guardians must be notified of their child's EL status, and the school will need to explain what kind of language support services the student will receive until ELPS can be administered.
5. Parents/guardians should still be given the [EL Parent Notification Letter](#) but with the additional explanation that this is only provisional until ELPS can be administered. Parents have the option of refusing language services, but the school system should make every effort to explain the benefit of these services even as a provisional measure.
6. School systems will need to create an [EL Accommodation Checklist](#) and the [EL Instructional Support Plan](#) for Provisional ELs to help teachers and other support staff determine what kind of supports to provide the student. These may be adjusted and revised as needed.
7. School systems should administer ELPS to all Provisional ELs as soon as safely possible. Adjustments to EL status can be made once ELPS results are reviewed.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Should Provisional ELs be identified in SIS as EL?

- Yes, all newly-enrolled students who meet the criteria to be a Provisional EL will need to be identified as EL in SIS. When school facilities reopen, these students will be administered ELPS, and adjustments to their EL status can be made at that time.

How will this affect funding?

- Provisional ELs will be identified as EL in SIS, so school systems will be able to receive appropriate federal funding for them during this provisional time.

How will this affect accountability?

- All Provisional ELs will be included with other ELs in accountability measures.

Can we use this Provisional EL identification for students who were enrolled but unable to take ELPT in spring 2020?

- No, Provisional EL identification is only for newly-enrolled potential ELs. ELs who have been in school and were required to take ELPT in spring 2020 will be considered EL until they meet the exit criteria of scoring at least a Level 4 in all tested domains (Proficient).

Will we need to administer ELPS to these students when school facilities open?

- Yes, school systems need to track students whom they have identified as Provisional ELs and administer ELPS once school facilities reopen. Any adjustments to EL status will need to be made at that time and SIS updated.

For more information see the [Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#) guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Please contact Language.Acquisition@la.gov for questions or support.