



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell  
Commissioner of Education 

**DATE:** June 9, 2017

**SUBJECT:** English Learners – Identification, Accountability, and Assessment

This memorandum outlines new policy for English learners (ELs) in Connecticut public schools. As the proportion of ELs reaches an all-time high (near seven percent), it is vital that our policies and practices continue to further the promise of an excellent public education for all students, including ELs. These improvements are in concert with [Connecticut's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act](#).

#### **EL Identification**

Effective 2017-18, the CSDE is instituting statewide, standardized identification protocols for English learners. These are described in the [Initial English Learner Identification Process](#) and [flow chart](#). In the development of this policy, CSDE staff consulted with EL coordinators from many districts. Their feedback and suggested flexibilities have been incorporated into this policy. Please note that the CSDE will cover the cost of the LAS Links Placement Test 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition and, if needed, the preLAS 2000 English Version for students entering or enrolled in kindergarten. Ordering information will be provided to EL Coordinators and Title III Contacts.

#### **Accountability**

When ELs make progress toward English language proficiency, they perform better in the academic subjects and become more engaged within the broader school community. Therefore, the CSDE is developing a growth model for the English language proficiency assessment (i.e., the LAS Links) using an approach similar to that used for the Smarter Balanced assessments. Sometime this fall, the CSDE expects to report growth results on the LAS Links from 2015-16 to 2016-17. The growth results from 2016-17 to 2017-18 will be incorporated into the Next Generation Accountability Model for 2017-18. [Preliminary information about growth and accountability](#) was disseminated at CAPELL in May 2017.

#### **Assessment**

The LAS Links assessments are adequately aligned to the Connecticut English Language Proficiency standards and offer a vertical scale that is suitable for measuring student growth. Therefore, the CSDE will continue using the LAS Links as the annual assessment for all ELs K-12. In the 2017-18 school year, LAS Links Form C will be used as the annual assessment.

Please visit the [CSDE English Learners web page](#) for additional information. You may also contact the following staff, as appropriate, for specific questions:

EL identification, exit, standards, and programs: [Megan Alubicki Flick](#), 860-713-6786  
EL data, accountability, and growth model: [Michael Sabados](#), 860-713-6856  
EL assessment, administration, and purchasing: [Janet Stuck](#), 860-713-6837

Thank you.