

Identification Guidance for Returning EL/ML Students

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) regularly receives questions concerning the English learner/multilingual learner (EL/ML) status of former Connecticut public school students who **had been identified as EL/ML while originally here and have returned from: 1) another state’s public school system, 2) a private school, or 3) another country.**

We developed informal guidance for districts regarding these students in SY 2020–21 but, based on information that we subsequently received from the US Department of Education’s Office of English Language Acquisition and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, we have decided to update and formalize that guidance.

When making decisions about returning students from this point forward, please use the guidance below. Please note that you **do not** need to re-evaluate previous decisions about returning students that might be contrary to this guidance.

EL/ML Students Returning to the CT Public School System from Another State’s Public School System

Students Who Have Not Met Mastery in Another State

1. Those who have returned **within two years** should not be administered the EL/ML screener and should:
 - a. be reported in the Public School Information System (PSIS) as an EL/ML student,
 - b. receive appropriate language services,
 - c. have access to assessment accommodations based on EL/ML status and,
 - d. participate in the annual ELP assessment.
2. Those who have returned **after a two- or more year absence** should be administered the EL/ML screener. Students identified by the screener as an EL/ML should:
 - a. be reported in PSIS as an EL/ML student,
 - b. receive appropriate language services,
 - c. have access to assessment accommodations based on EL/ML status and,
 - d. participate in the annual ELP assessment.

Students Who Have Met the English Mastery Standard of Another State

1. Returning students who met the English Mastery standard of another state **should not** be administered the EL/ML screener.
2. Students who are new to Connecticut public schools but have met the English Mastery standard of another state, **should not** be administered the EL/ML screener.

EL/ML Students Returning to the CT Public School System from a Private School

1. Those who have returned **within two years** should not be administered the EL/ML screener and should:
 - a. be reported in PSIS as an EL/ML student,
 - b. receive appropriate language services,
 - c. have access to assessment accommodations based on EL/ML status and,
 - d. participate in the annual ELP assessment.
2. Those who have returned **after a two- or more year absence** should be administered the EL/ML screener. Students identified by the screener as an EL/ML should:
 - a. be reported in PSIS as an EL/ML student,
 - b. receive appropriate language services,
 - c. have access to assessment accommodations based on EL/ML status and,
 - d. participate in the annual ELP assessment.

EL/ML Students Returning to the CT Public School System from Another Country

1. Those who have returned **within two years** should not be administered the EL/ML screener and should:
 - a. be reported in PSIS as an EL/ML student,
 - b. receive appropriate language services,
 - c. have access to assessment accommodations based on EL/ML status and,
 - d. participate in the annual ELP assessment.
2. Those who have returned **after a two- or more year absence** should be administered the EL/ML screener. Students identified by the screener as an EL/ML should:
 - a. be reported in PSIS as an EL/ML student,
 - b. receive appropriate language services,
 - c. have access to assessment accommodations based on EL/ML status and,
 - d. participate in the annual ELP assessment.