STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KEVIN FANGMAN, ACTING DIRECTOR

Memo

To: Administrators, Assessment and ESL Consultants, Coordinators, and Teachers

From: John Scott, Title III English Language Consultant

Date: January 12, 2011

Re: Assessment of English Language Learners

Both Title III and Title I require two types of assessments (academic content and English language proficiency) for students with limited English proficiency (LEP)/English language learners (ELL). Inclusion of ELL in the district's academic assessment system must begin immediately. To assist your district in including ELL in your district assessment system, a guideline document has been developed.

Please, note the following:

- LEAs must annually assess their LEP students (K-12) in English language proficiency. The assessment being used for both public and non-public schools is I-ELDA – Iowa English Language Development Assessment. Please contact your AEA ESL Consultant to inquire about availability of training and other important information relevant your assessment needs.
- All limited English proficient students/ELLs must be included in the district's academic content assessments in reading and mathematics. This includes science as well the Iowa alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Iowa does not have content-area assessments in languages other than English.
- No exemptions are permitted based on time in English instruction or level of English proficiency for the Iowa Tests for Mathematics. Students who not been enrolled for a full academic year in US schools do not have to take the Iowa Test for Reading. However, these students' I-ELDA results will count for their participation in Reading. Accommodations that are specific to ELLs are allowed. Please see the document "Guidelines for the Inclusion of ELL in K12 Assessments."

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