

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

LAS Links Assessment System

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Sharon Prestridge

EL Program Coordinator
(601) 359-1970

SPrestridge@mdek12.org

Mississippi Department of Education

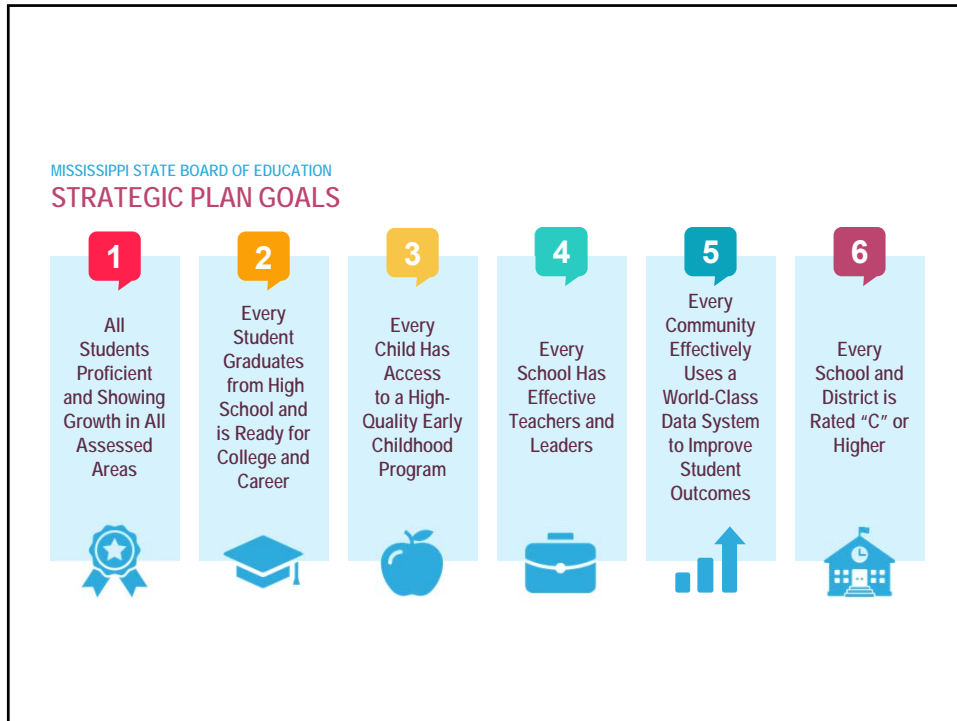
VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community





English Learner

The term "English learner," when used with respect to an individual, means an individual

- (A) who is aged 3 through 21;
- (B) who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;
- (C) (i) who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English;
 - (ii) (I) who is a Native American or Alaska Native, or a native resident of the outlying areas; and
 - (II) who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the individual's level of English language proficiency; or
 - (iii) who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and
- (D) whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual
 - (i) the ability to meet the challenging State academic standards;
 - (ii) the ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or
 - (iii) the opportunity to participate fully in society.



Reference: [ESEA Section 8101\(20\)](#) page 393

English Learners with Disabilities

- The phrase “English learners with disabilities” refers to English learners who are also “children with disabilities” under the IDEA.

Reference: [ESEA Section 3201\(4\)](#) page 212

[IDEA Section 300.8 Child with a Disability](#)

[34 CFR §300.8](#) and [82 FR 31912](#)

- Even if a parent of an EL student with a disability declines disability-related services under the IDEA or Section 504, that student with a disability remains entitled to all EL rights and services.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-el-201501.pdf> (page 25)

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/q-and-a-on-elp-swd.pdf>



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Recently Arrived

A recently arrived EL student has been enrolled in a school in one of the 50 States in the United States or the District of Columbia for less than 12 months. These months do not have to be consecutive.

A recently arrived EL is not the same as a recent arrival to a school, LEA, or state.

<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/essa-act-of-1965.pdf> (Section 1111, page 33)



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LAS Links Placement Test (Screener)

- Both the LAS Links Placement Test Training Links and the LAS Links Placement Test are located in the [LAS Links Assessment \(Secure\)](#) folder. The LAS Links Placement Test is a secure assessment that is accessed through a link in the notification letter.
- The LAS Links Placement Test is administered one-on-one; therefore, a proctor is not required.
- View the training video for each grade level to which you expect to administer the placement test prior to actually administering the test.
- **PATH:** DTC Resources – Special Populations – English Learners – [LAS Links Assessment \(Secure\)](#)
- **LINK:** <https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/DTC%20Resources/Fo rms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fstudentassessment%2FDTC%20Resources%2FSpe cial%20Populations%2FEnglish%20Learners%2FLAS%20Links%20%28Secure%29%20 Assessment&FolderCTID=0x012000F5B0CC3D6D30EB4EB1EA4DFE9AED9A59&View= %7BED1ABDCD%2D98B0%2D4BBB%2D9DE2%2DD685E975AC50%7D>



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Monitored Status

- The English learner moves to **monitored status** when he or she has officially exited the EL program based on the SBE-approved exit criteria.
- The student will remain in this status for **four (4) years**.
- The student in monitored status no longer receives EL accommodations and does not take the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT).
- While the student is officially in monitored status, the district must observe and check the progress of the student to determine whether or not he or she is advancing academically as expected or whether the student demonstrates a persistent language need.



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Federal Regulations

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that the Local Education Agency (LEA) **must assess all ELs** using the annual English language proficiency assessment, including those students whose parents have declined to enroll them in, or had them removed from, the Language Instruction Education Program (LIEP).
- **All** ELs enrolled in schools served by the State must be assessed annually using the State's English language proficiency assessment. [ESEA Section 1111(b)(2)(G)].
- State or district assessment policies, if they include a right to opt a child out of assessments, do not override or diminish the **LEA's obligation to assess 100 percent of ELs** using the annual English language proficiency assessment.

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essatitleiiienglishlearners92016.pdf> (page 30)



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English Learners Who Opt-out of EL Program/Services

Parents have the right to opt their children out of the EL program or particular EL services.

If a parent decides to opt his or her child out of the EL program or particular EL services, that child **still retains his or her status as an EL**.

ELs who opt out of the EL program or EL services **must take the English Language Proficiency Test** once per year until they officially exit EL status.

There is **no ELPT exemption** for ELs whose parent decided to opt his or her child out of the EL program or particular EL services.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/chap7.pdf>

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essatitleiiienglishlearners92016.pdf> (page 30)



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LAS Links Assessment System

- The **LAS Links** Assessment System is a secure, large-scale, English language proficiency test administered to Kindergarten through grade 12 students who have been officially identified as English learners (ELs).
- **As mandated by the ESEA, English learners are tested in four (4) domains: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing.**
- This assessment is **administered annually** each spring (**March 4 - April 16, 2019**) to monitor English learners' progress in acquiring academic English.
- Students test using the DRC eDirect System, which provides a secure, online testing environment.



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Academic Language

- Academic language is decontextualized (the meaning is independent of the text), abstract (nonconcrete), technical, and literary.
- Academic language is not limited to one area of language and requires skills in multiple domains, including vocabulary, syntax/grammar, and phonology.
- Academic language includes sophisticated and varied vocabulary and grammatical structures.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/eltoolkit.pdf>



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LAS Links Instructional Library

- The LAS Links Instructional Library contains a comprehensive collection of instructional materials and videos to assist with the instruction of English learners.
- The information contained in the **instructional library** should be shared with everyone, including students and parents.
- **Path:** OSA SharePoint → Public Access → Special Populations → [English Learner](#)

- **Link:**

<https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/Public%20Access/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fstudentassessment%2FPublic%20Access%2FSpecial%5FPopulations%2FEnglish%20Learners&FolderCTID=0x0120008C41041A907A304BA89A4587F88962BC&View=%7B5FB78E06%2D9076%2D48F4%2D9A3B%2DC02F433B41D0%7D>



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LAS Links Assessment Library

- The **secure**, assessment library contains a comprehensive collection of overview documents, informational sheets, and training videos that address all aspects of the English Language Proficiency Test scheduled for administration in March 2019.
- The secure, **assessment library** should be shared with teachers who have English learners who will take the English Language Proficiency Test.
- **Path:** OSA SharePoint → DTC Resources → Special Populations → English Learner → [LAS Links \(Secure\) Assessment](#)

- **Link:**

<https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/DTC%20Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fstudentassessment%2FDTC%20Resources%2FSpecial%20Populations%2FEnglish%20Learners&FolderCTID=0x012000F5B0CC3D6D30EB4EB1EA4DFE9AED9A59&View=%7BED1ABDCD%2D98B0%2D4BBB%2D9DE2%2DD685E975AC50%7D>



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Important Dates

Description	Start Date	End Date
Technology Readiness Survey for the LAS Links Online (Response Required)	October 15, 2018	November 9, 2018
LAS Links Assessment Training Invitation (Response Required)	November 26, 2018	November 30, 2018
Districts must complete the data input into the EL Roster Screen in the Federal Programs Module of the MSIS	----	December 28, 2018
DTC will receive top-level username and password for LAS Links test administration.	January 21, 2019	February 1, 2019
Test Materials and Test Coordinator Kits arrive in districts (paper-based only)	February 4, 2019	February 8, 2019
LAS Links Administration Training (Refer to separate schedule.)	February 4, 2019	February 7, 2019
Additional Materials order window (paper-based only)	February 11, 2019	March 22, 2019
Testing Window (online and paper-based)	March 4, 2019	April 16, 2019
Districts pack and ship completed, paper-based materials to DRC		April 17, 2019
All materials received at DRC (paper-based only)	----	No Later Than April 24, 2019
Final Student Score Reports available for districts (on the CTB Online Reporting System) – New username and password will only be e-mailed to the DTC.		June 20, 2019



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Scheduled Webinars

Date	Webinar	Attendee
January 10, 2019	Technology Checklist Webinar	Technology Coordinator
February 18, 2019 February 25, 2019 March 4, 2019 March 11, 2019 March 18, 2019 March 25, 2019 April 1, 2019 April 8, 2019	Weekly Technology Webcast with DRC IT Staff 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Technology Coordinator
May 30, 2019	Online Reporting System (ORS) – Student Reports	DTC



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LAS Links Assessment Training

- The LAS Links Assessment Training will be held at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) on **February 4-7, 2019**, in the Emergency Operations Center room.
- Each participant must bring a district laptop as a back-up in case MEMA is activated. If activation occurs, our group will be relocated to a classroom with wi-fi access, and your laptop will be necessary to effectively participate in the training.
- An **invitation to register** will be forthcoming from DRC on or about November 26, 2018. **(Response required by December 21, 2018.)** During registration, choose only one half-day session. Each session group is limited to 25 participants, and registration will be limited to one person per district; however, districts with more than 150 English learners may register 2 persons.

Morning session: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon session: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



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LAS Links Pre-ID Data File

- **Districts must complete the data input into the EL Roster Screen in the Federal Programs Module of the MSIS by no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 28, 2018.**
- The LAS Links Pre-ID Data File will be generated from the EL data entered by each school district into the EL Roster Screen in the Federal Programs Module of the MSIS.
- On January 18, 2019, the MDE will provide Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) with the Pre-ID Data File for each district.
- If you do not complete the EL Roster Screen information prior to the deadline, then you will have to input each student's information into the eDirect System prior to administering the ELPT.



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View of EL Roster Screen in MSIS

MSIS USER MANUAL by the Office of Federal Programs (pages 29-30)

http://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/MDE/OFP/office-of-federal-programs-msis-manual--updated-june-2016_v3.pdf



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Portal Permission Matrix for DRC eDirect

Path:
OSA SharePoint → DTC
Resources → Special
Populations → English
Learners → LAS Links
(Secure) Assessment –
[Portal Permission Matrix](#)

Link:
[https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/DTC%20Resources/Special%20Populations/English%20Learners/LAS%20Links%20\(Secure\)%20Assessment/Portal%20Permissions%20Matrix.pdf](https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/DTC%20Resources/Special%20Populations/English%20Learners/LAS%20Links%20(Secure)%20Assessment/Portal%20Permissions%20Matrix.pdf)



English Language Proficiency Test
Mississippi Portal Permissions Matrix for DRC INSIGHT

Number	Portal Menu	Permission Name	Role			
			DTC	STC	TA	Proctor
1	General Information	Documents - View	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
2	General Information - Downloads	Online Testing - Secured Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3	Device Toolkit	Test Setup	Yes	No	No	No
4	User Management	Administrator	Yes	No	No	No
5	Test Administrator Management	Teachers - Search/View *Users must have this permission in order to use any other Teacher permissions.	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Teachers - Add/Edit	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Teachers - Upload	Yes	Yes	No	No
6	Student Management	Student - Search/View *Users must have this permission in order to use any other Student permissions.	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Students - Add/Edit	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Students - Download Students	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Students - Upload	Yes	Yes	No	No
7	Student Group Management	Student Groups - Search/View *Users must have this permission in order to use any other Student Groups permissions.	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Student Groups - Add/Edit	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Student Groups - Upload	Yes	Yes	No	No
8	Test Management	Test Session - Search/View *Users must have this permission in order to use any other Test Session permissions.	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Test Session - Add/Edit	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Test Tickets - View/Print	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Test Tickets - View Questions Attempted	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Test Tickets - End Incomplete Tests	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Test Tickets - Unlock	Yes	Yes	No	No
		Primary Window	Yes	Yes	No	No
9	Report Delivery	View Dynamic Reports	Yes	No	No	No
10	Educator Scoring	Educator scoring	No	No	No	No
11	Student Status Dashboard	Test Setup - View Student Status	Yes	No	No	No

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Test Administrator Username/Password

- On January 21 – February 1, 2019, new users will receive usernames and passwords to the DRC eDIRECT Testing Portal.
- If you do not receive this email, please contact Joseph Viray at DRC.
jviray@datarecognitioncorp.com
 (317) 469-1108
- The DTC must register the School Test Coordinators.



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LAS Links Assessment Forms

- **Form D** - Online or Paper-based
 - Operational form for all English learners, except as specified for form C below.
 - students with SCD
 - Paper-based testing is limited to students with accommodation #98 on the IEP/Section 504 Plan/Language Service Plan specifying paper-based testing materials and marked for the ELPT under the Test column.

Accommodation(s)	Code #	Test(s)
Paper-based testing materials	98	ELPT

- **Form C** - only used for students with the following accommodation(s) on the IEP/Section 504 Plan and marked for the ELPT under the Test column:
 - accommodation #40 (Large Print paper-based test materials)
 - accommodation #41 (Braille)



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Students with SCD

Online or Paper-based Form D

- The EL student has been classified as an English learner.
and
- The EL student has a significant cognitive disability (SCD) and is receiving education services under IDEA.
and
- The EL student is working in an alternate curriculum aligned with the state's academic standards and is participating in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate.

★ Both the SpEd and the IEP indicators must be “Y” in the MSIS.

and

★ The SCD indicator must be “YES” in the MSIS.



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EL Accommodation Tracking Sheet (optional)

The classroom teacher and/or STC can use this form to track the allowable accommodations for ELs on each assessment.

This document does not substitute for a current and valid Language Service Plan.

Path: DTC Resources – Special Populations – English Learners – [DTC Forms](#) – EL Accommodation Tracking Sheet

Link:

<https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/DTC%20Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=/2Fstudentassessment%2FDTC%20Resources%2FSpecial%20Populations%2FEnglish%20Learners%2FDTC%20Forms&FolderCUI=D=0x0120000F5B0CC3D6D30EB4E1E4A4ED9AEAD9A59&View=7B7ED1ABDCD%2D98B0%2D4B8BB%2D9D9E2%2D685E975A5C50%7D>

[illegible]

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Listening Domain

Grades Kindergarten & 1st Testing Time: ~35 minutes

- Two (2) sections – Multiple Choice
 - Listen for Information
 - Listen for Academic Instruction

Grades 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12 Testing Time: ~30 minutes

- Two (2) sections – Multiple Choice
 - Listen for Information
 - Listen for Academic Instruction



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Speaking Domain

All Grades

Testing Time: ~15 minutes

- Students will not be able to listen to their recording during testing.
- Sound recorder allows up to 45 seconds for response to the following sections: Make Conversation, Use Academic Words, Describe and Request Info, and Present and Explain Info.
- Sound recorder allows up to 120 seconds for response to the Tell A Story section.



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Reading Domain

Grades Kindergarten – 3rd Testing Time: ~35 minutes

- Three (3) Multiple Choice Sections
 - Read Words
 - Read School Texts
 - Read Academic Texts

Grades 4 & 5 Testing Time: ~35 minutes

- Two (2) Multiple Choice Sections
 - Read School Texts
 - Read Academic Texts

Grades 6 – 12 Testing Time: ~45 minutes

- Two (2) Multiple Choice Sections
 - Read School Texts
 - Read Academic Texts



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Writing Domain

Grades Kindergarten & 1st Testing Time: ~30-35 minutes

- Four (4) Multiple Choice and Constructed Response Sections
 - Start Writing
 - Write to Express Ideas
 - Write Academic Texts (grade K does not include Write Academic Texts)
 - Use Grammar and Conventions

Grades 2 – 12 Testing Time: ~35 minutes

- Three (3) Multiple Choice and Constructed Response Sections
 - Use Grammar and Conventions
 - Write Academic Texts
 - Write to Express Ideas



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Guidance Issued for ELP Testing

Two guidance documents were issued for the ELPT:

1. ELPT Log-in Guidance for Kindergarten Students, February 28, 2018
2. ELPT Time-out Due to Inactivity, March 8, 2018

Path: OSA SharePoint – DTC Resources – Special Populations – English Learners – [Guidance Issued for ELP Testing](#)

Link:

<https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/DTC%20Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fstudentassessment%2FDTC%20Resources%2FSpecial%20Populations%2FEnglish%20Learners%2FGuidance%20Issued%20for%20ELP%20Testing&FolderCTID=0x012000F5B0CC3D6D30EB4EB1EA4DFE9AED9A59&View=%2F7BED1ABDCD%2D98B0%2D4BBB%2D9DE2%2DD685E975AC50%7D>



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SBE-approved EL Exit Policy

To **officially exit EL status**, English learners (EL) are required to obtain the following proficiency levels on the LAS Links ELPT:

- Overall Proficiency Level 4 or 5, **and**
- Reading Proficiency Level 4 or 5, **and**
- Writing Proficiency Level 4 or 5.

[http://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/MBE/MBE%20-%202017%20\(1\)/final-minutes-jan-19-2017_001.pdf](http://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/MBE/MBE%20-%202017%20(1)/final-minutes-jan-19-2017_001.pdf)



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CAUTION: Exiting Too Early/Late

- Exiting EL students either too soon or too late raises civil rights concerns.
 - EL students who are exited too soon are denied access to EL services.
 - EL students who are exited too late may be denied access to parts of the general curriculum.
- Denied or delayed access to the general curriculum can impede academic growth and contribute to a higher risk of dropping out of school.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/chap8.pdf> (page 2)



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English Learner Tool Kit

The [English Learner Tool Kit](#) has ten (10) chapters (updated with ESSA references) and contains an overview, sample tools, and resources.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html>

Chapters:

1. [Identifying All English Learner Students](#)
2. [Providing English Learners with a Language Assistance Program](#)
3. [Staffing and Supporting an EL Program](#)
4. [Meaningful Access to Core Curricular, Extra Curricular Programs](#)
5. [Creating an Inclusive Environment and Avoiding Unnecessary Segregation](#)
6. [Addressing English Learners with Disabilities](#)
7. [Serving English Learners who Opt-Out of EL Programs](#)
8. [Monitoring and Exiting English Learners from EL Programs and Services](#)
9. [Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Districts EL Program](#)
10. [Ensuring Meaningful Communication with Limited English Proficient Parents](#)



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Reference Document(s) and Link(s)

- **English Language Proficiency Test Webpage (MDE)**
<http://www.mdek12.org/QSA/SP/ELPT>
- **Mississippi English Learner Guidelines: Regulations, Funding Guidance, and Instructional Supports 2018**
http://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/MS%20English%20Learner%20Guidelines%202018_0.pdf
- **English Language Proficiency Test FAQ**
https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/DTC%20Resources/DTC_Training_Files/_1.FAQs/FAQ%20-%20ELPT%202017.pdf
- **Mississippi Testing Accommodations Manual, February 2017**
http://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/MDE/OA/QSA/2017-mississippi-testing-accommodations-manual_20171005.pdf
- **ELPT Quick Reference Guide**
https://districtaccess.mde.k12.ms.us/studentassessment/Public%20Access/Special_Populations/English%20Learners/ELPT%20Quick%20Reference%20Guide%20-%20July%202018.pdf
- **English Learner Tool Kit**
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html>



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Sharon Prestridge

English Learner Program Coordinator

Office of Student Assessment

Tel. (601) 359-1970

SPrestridge@mdek12.org

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