

# EL Screener

## Screening for English Language Proficiency

**What is an EL Screener?** The screening instrument designed to assess English language proficiency primarily to determine the student's eligibility for bilingual education services and program placement. This assessment must take place within 30 days of the student's enrollment at the beginning of the school year and within 14 days if the student enrolls after the first 30 days.

### Chart for Determining English Proficiency

Grade	Screener	Domains Assessed				Program Eligibility for EL Services
		Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing	
Pre-School: Age 3	Pre-IPT	✓	✓			Scores at level A or B (on a scale with levels A-E)
Pre-School: Age 4	Pre-IPT	✓	✓			Scores at level A, B, or C (on a scale with levels A-E)
Pre-School: Age 5	Pre-IPT	✓	✓			Scores at level A, B, C, or D (on a scale with levels A-E)
Kindergarten <i>1<sup>st</sup> Semester</i>	MODEL for K	✓	✓			If the oral composite proficiency level is below 5.0
Kindergarten <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</i> through Grade 1- <i>1<sup>st</sup> Semester</i>	MODEL for K	✓	✓	✓	✓	If the overall composite proficiency level is below 5.0 and the literacy composite is below 4.2
Grade 1 - <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</i> through Grade 12	WIDA SCREENER	✓	✓	✓	✓	If the overall composite is below 5.0

Who should be tested?	How are results used?	How long does the test take?
-----------------------	-----------------------	------------------------------

<p>Follow these steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administer a Home Language Survey to <b>ALL</b> students (Preschool - Grade 12) newly registering in the district.</li> <li>2. Assess the English language proficiency of all students whose parents answered "yes" to one or both of the Home Language Survey questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Is a language other than English spoken in your home?"</li> <li>• "Does the student speak a language other than English?"</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Enter screening results in ASPEN.</li> <li>4. Provide services as required based on the individual EL's needs and language proficiency level.</li> </ol>	<p>Results are used to determine eligibility for bilingual services, the program placement in TBE Full-time or Part-time, the periods of instruction, the instructional context and the languages of instruction and supports.</p> <p>A student must obtain an overall composite proficiency level of 4.8 on the ACCESS for ELLs to be considered English language proficient. Any student that does not achieve the minimum composite criteria is considered an English learner (EL) student and remains eligible for TBE/TPI services.</p>	<p>The screeners are approximately 1.5 hours long.</p>
---	--	--

#### How are results reported?

If a student is determined to be English Learner, the district must inform parents in writing of the results of the assessment and the program placement recommendations, describing the services that are available to assist the student to become English language proficient.

#### Where can I find additional information about EL Screeners?

**CPS staff** can find additional information on the CPS Knowledge Center EL Screeners page here:

<https://sites.google.com/a/cps.edu/kc/assessment/ell-screener>

**Parents** can find additional information at ISBE's website ( <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/EL2017-2018AccessforELL.aspx>) or WIDA's website (<https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/screener>)

Visit [cps.edu/assessment](https://cps.edu/assessment) for information on Chicago Public Schools full balanced assessment system.