

English Language Learners

Some students come to Kentucky schools with limited proficiency in the English language. Equipping those students to succeed at the same high levels as their classmates requires some distinctive supports.

HOW ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IDENTIFIED?

All local school districts are required to administer a home language survey to students enrolled in the district as a first screening process to identify students with limited English proficiency. Based on that initial survey, students may take a screening test named W-APT that allows schools to:

- ⑤ Identify students who may be candidates for English language learner and/or bilingual services
- ⑤ Determine the academic English language proficiency levels of students new to a school or to the United States school system in order to determine appropriate levels and amount of instructional services
- ⑤ Assign students identified as English language learners to appropriate classes and supports.

HOW ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS SERVED?

Once a student is identified as an English language learner, a Program Services Plan (PSP) is developed for that student. The PSP includes:

- ⑤ The reasons a student has been identified (results of the W-APT screener and possibly other assessments)
- ⑤ Information on the student's current level of English proficiency
- ⑤ Information on the student's academic background and experience, cultural and language history
- ⑤ Service delivery models for English language instruction
- ⑤ Appropriate instructional and assessment accommodations and modifications for the rest of a student's studies, including work to meet Kentucky Academic Standards in all subjects.

HOW ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS ASSESSED?

Students with limited English proficiency take K-PREP and readiness tests along with their classmates and also take the ACCESS for ELLs® proficiency to gauge their progress toward mastering English.

HOW DO STUDENTS MOVE OUT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER SERVICES?

Those services end when a student's ACCESS scores meet state criteria for fluency in English. Once students exit the English Language Learner program, they are monitored for the next two academic years.

LEARNING MORE

Added information on how Kentucky schools serve students can be found in other Kentucky Education Guides offered at www.prichardcommittee.org, including those on:

- Early Childhood and Preschool
- Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, and High Schools
- Students Who Need Added Support
- Students Ready for Added Challenge
- Poverty and Nonacademic Barriers to Learning
- Digital Learning and School Technology

PLANNING DISTRICT SERVICES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

To learn more about local service to English language learners, check out your district's Title III/English Learner Plan for educating limited English proficient students. The plan will show:

- Objectives for increasing the percent of students making progress in learning English and the percent attaining English language proficiency
- Objectives for closing gaps between English language learners and other students
- The district's plans for instruction and other services to meet those objectives
- The budget that supports those plans

Those district plans are to be developed annually in consultation with teachers, school administrators, parents, researchers, and if appropriate, with education-related community groups, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education.

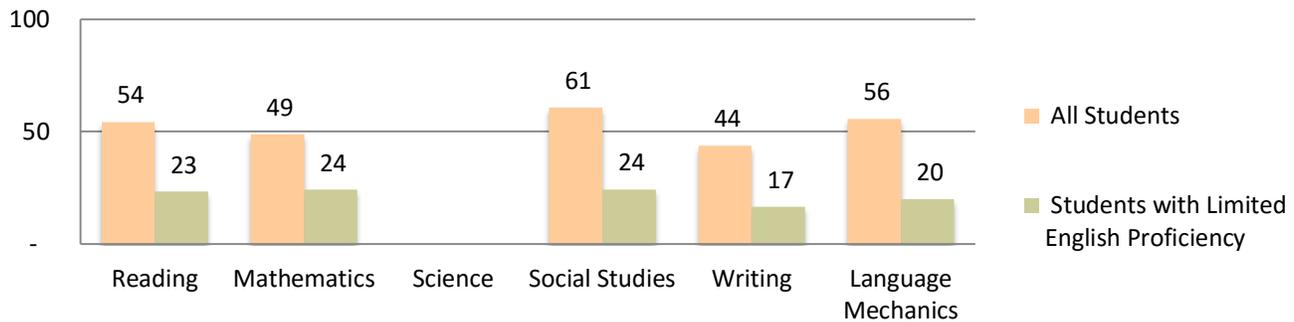
HOW ARE SERVICES TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS FUNDED?

The SEEK formula provides an “add on” amount based on each district’s count of students with limited English proficiency. The federal government provides supplemental funding for educating English language learners under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to qualifying districts. Districts that do not meet the federal qualification requirement as a stand-alone district can join with other districts to form a consortium to receive Title III funds.

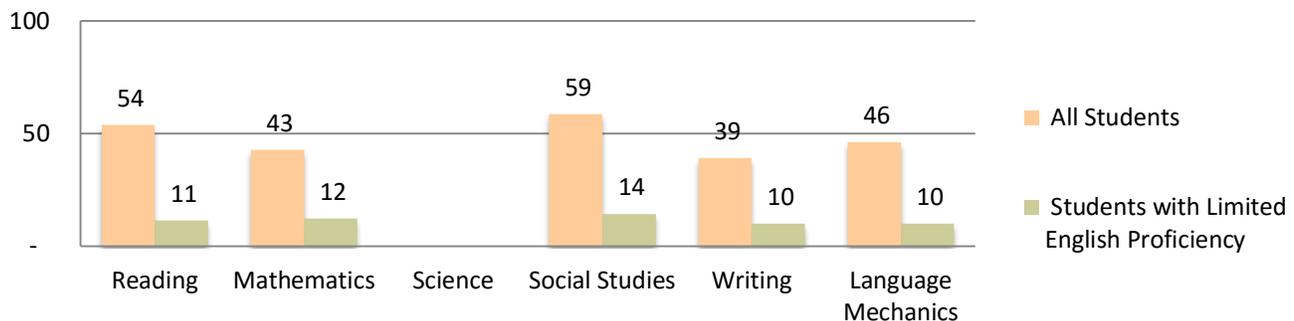
WHAT EVIDENCE SHOWS RESULTS FOR STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY?

The results from K-PREP assessments shown below confirm that substantial further efforts are needed to strengthen learning for this group of students. Scores for limited English proficiency students at individual schools can be found at www.education.ky.gov by going to the School Report Card link on the home page.

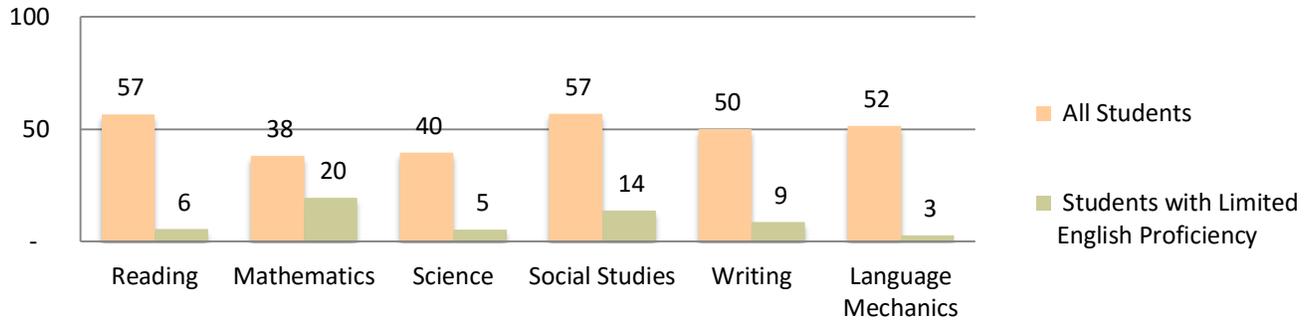
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2015 PERCENT PROFICIENT OR ABOVE



MIDDLE SCHOOL 2015 PERCENT PROFICIENT OR ABOVE



HIGH SCHOOL 2015 PERCENT PROFICIENT OR ABOVE



This and other Kentucky EdGuides are available at www.prichardcommittee.org as tools for engaging students, parents, teachers, and other Kentucky public education stakeholders. © 2015 by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence