

First Year LEP Students and Testing

<p>What is the new State Board Policy related to LEP students in their first year in the U.S.?</p>	<p>The State Board of Education has adopted a temporary rule, effective immediately for the 2003-04 school year, to make the following changes with respect to limited English proficient students during their first year in U.S. schools:</p> <p>Schools shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to administer state reading and mathematics tests for LEP students who score at or above Intermediate High on the reading section of the language proficiency test during their first year in U.S. schools. Results from these assessments will be included in the ABCs and AYP. • not require LEP students (who score below Intermediate High on the reading section of the language proficiency test) in their first year in U.S. schools to be assessed on the reading End-of-Grade tests, High School Comprehensive Test in Reading or the NC Alternate Assessment Academic Inventory (NCAAAI) for reading. • for purposes of determining the 95% tested rule in reading, use the language proficiency test from the spring administration for these students. • not count mathematics results in determining AYP or ABCs performance composite scores for LEP students who score below Intermediate High on the reading section of the language proficiency test in their first year in U.S. schools. • include students previously identified as LEP, who have exited LEP identification during the last two years, in the calculations for determining the status of the LEP subgroup for AYP only if that subgroup already met the minimum number of 40 students required for a subgroup.
<p><i>The following questions and answers are all in reference to LEP students in their first year in the United States who score below Intermediate High on the reading IPT.</i></p>	
<p>What assessments are NOT affected by the new ruling?</p>	<p>The following assessments are not affected by the new ruling: English language proficiency test, North Carolina Writing Assessment at Grades 4, 7, and 10, NCAAAI for writing, North Carolina End-of-Course Tests, North Carolina Competency Tests of Reading and Mathematics, Tests of Computer Skills Multiple-Choice and Performance, and the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Portfolio (NCAAP). <i>The Competency Tests of Reading and Mathematics, for all students except those in the Occupational Course of Study, and the computer skills proficiency requirement remain high school graduation requirements.</i></p>

	What does “first year in U.S. schools” mean?	First year of enrollment in U.S. schools refers to the first school year that a student has been enrolled in a U.S. school. It does not refer to a 12-month period. If a student has been enrolled in any U.S. school prior to this school year, the student, regardless of his/her enrollment period, would be expected to be assessed in reading and math.
	How do I know if the student is new to the United States?	Review the student’s information to see if there is any indication that the student was enrolled in a U.S. school prior to enrollment in your LEA.
	What about students that are classified as LEP AND are in the Exceptional Children (EC) program?	All students in the Exceptional Children program must be assessed by the applicable state tests or alternate assessments, regardless of whether or not this is the student’s first year in a U.S. school. The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has not provided a ruling as to whether the scores for these students must be part of the accountability results.
	How is the language proficiency test, the IPT, affected by the ruling?	The administration of the IDEA Proficiency Test (IPT) is not affected in any way by the ruling. It continues to be a requirement for all LEP students.
Reading	If we have started a NCAAAI in reading for a first year student, what do we do?	It is an LEA decision whether or not that inventory will be completed. If it is completed, it will not count toward AYP or ABCs.
	If it is decided that we <i>will</i> complete the reading inventories for these students, what needs to be done at the end of the year?	Continue with the assessment. Complete all required student information, scores, and evidence documentation. On the student’s NCAAAI scannable student information sheet, code the appropriate response in column “O” of the <i>Special Codes</i> section.
	If it is decided that we <i>will not</i> complete the reading inventories for these students, what needs to be done at the end of the year?	The inventory should be completed to date. For example, if the student enrolled in September, it would be expected that the baseline and interim scores would be completed. Return the inventory to the LEA test coordinator. Complete a scannable student information sheet with the appropriate response in column “O” of the <i>Special Codes</i> section.

Math	If we have started a NCAAAI in math for a first year student, what do we do?	All students must be assessed in math. Therefore, you must complete the math inventory. The student's score, however, will not count toward AYP or the ABCs.
Writing	If we have started a NCAAAI in writing for a first year student, what do we do?	You must complete the writing inventory. The new federal guidelines do not affect writing.
EOC	If we have started a NCAAAI for an EOC subject for a first year student, what do we do?	You must complete the EOC inventory.