

A green curved line representing a hill, with silhouettes of five people walking along its top edge from left to right.

Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

MEMORANDUM

TO: Title III Directors

FROM: Rachel Davidson, English Learning and Migrant Education Coordinator

DATE: August 16th, 2013

SUBJECT: Foreign Exchange Students

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), a foreign exchange student is not exempt from any Title III required assessment, specifically the LAS Links Placement test. LEAs are required to administer a Home Language Survey to all first-time enrollees (i.e. incoming Kindergarteners) and students enrolling from out of state. If a student, including a foreign exchange student, has a language other than English identified on the Home Language Survey, then a LAS Links Placement test must be administered within 30 days of the beginning of the school year or two weeks after enrollment.

If a foreign exchange student receives a score of “Not Proficient” or “Approaching Proficiency” on the LAS Links Placement test, then the student is considered Limited English Proficient (LEP) and begins receiving federally required English language development services.

This policy applies even if the student’s foreign exchange program required an English proficiency assessment, unless it was LAS Links, because that assessment was not aligned to Indiana’s English proficiency assessment. A score that a foreign exchange program considers as English proficient may not correlate to Indiana standards. Therefore, foreign exchange students should be treated like any other student if they indicate a language other than English on a home language survey.

A foreign exchange student that indicated a language other than English on the Home Language Survey would also be included in an LEA's Language Minority (LM) count for purposes of allocating funds under 3114(a) of the ESEA.

If you have any further questions, please contact:
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