

A green curved line representing a hill spans across the top of the page. Silhouettes of five people in various walking poses are placed along the top of this line. The text "Indiana Department of Education" is centered above the hill.

# 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 30, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Preschool/PreK Students and English Learners

All students enrolling in an Indiana elementary school for the first time, including preschool programs that are part of the elementary, are to be administered the Home Language Survey. The native language and language(s) used by the preschool student is vital information for preschool staff and has to be taken into consideration during any testing, including determination for special education services, if applicable.

However, preschool students who are English Learners are not reported to the U.S. Department of Education in any of the following reports: LEP Students in LEP Program (C046), LEP Enrolled (C141), or Title III LEP Students Served (C116). Since preschool students who are English Learners are not reported to the U.S. Department of Education and subsequently do not generate Title III funding under 3114(a) of the ESEA, then LEAs are not required to administer a LAS Links screener for preschool students who have a language other than English identified on their HLS. However, preschool students who were born outside of the U.S. or its territories and immigrated to the U.S. are to be reported as immigrant students on the DOE-LM, whether or not they are English Learners.

LEAs have the option of administering the preLAS 2000 screener for preschool students that are 4 years old, as this screener has cut-off levels and interpretation of scores for students who are 4 years old. The student's score on the preLAS 2000 will not be reported to the IDOE as the student's English proficiency level but shall be used for informational purposes only. However, no preschool student will take the LAS Links Annual assessment, as this is for grades K-12 only. LEAs can also use a locally created assessment or screener to determine the English proficiency of the student in order to make instructional decisions.

When the time of Kindergarten enrollment is reached by preschool students who previously identified a language other than English on their Home Language Survey, licensed EL staff must administer the preLAS 2000 screener no later than 30 days from the beginning of the school year. For LEAs that chose the option of administering the preLAS 2000 screener previously for informational purposes to their 4 year old preschool students, they must administer the screener again no later than 30 days from the beginning of the school year. The preLAS 2000 screener determines if a student qualifies for EL services. EL staff must utilize the preLAS 2000 assessment given during Kindergarten enrollment, and not one given during preschool, as this required assessment will give the most accurate level of current English proficiency for the student.

LEAs have the option of providing Title III services to preschool students who have identified a language other than English on their Home Language Survey; however, this is not a requirement but rather a local decision.

If you have any questions about this update, please contact:

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