

Home Language Survey

The **Home Language Survey** is a required procedure. It must be administered to the parents/guardians of all children enrolling in schools in a language the parent/guardian can understand. For example, it must be administered in the home language for parents/guardians who speak a language other than English or orally (transferred to written form by the administrator) for any non-literate parent of any language. Using the student to translate for a parent is not acceptable. The **home language survey** becomes part of the child's "cum folder" in the district.

In most districts, the **home language survey** has become part of the intake process during registration. The **home language survey** may take many forms; however, there are three basic questions that are required:

1. Does your child speak a language other than English?
2. Has the child ever spoken a language other than English?
3. Is a language other than English spoken in your household?

Answering **YES** to any of these questions **DOES NOT** qualify a student as an English language learner. It does require, however, that the student participate in an approved language proficiency assessment.

In most cases, answering **NO** to all questions on the home language survey indicates that the students should be placed in mainstream instruction. However, answering **NO** to all of these questions **DOES NOT** necessarily exempt a student from being asked to take an approved language proficiency assessment. In cases where parents/guardians answer **NO** to all questions on the home language survey, but educators notice evidence of another language use, this student should still be tested.