

CELA Pro to ACCESS for ELLs – Impact on Growth

Background

Colorado has transitioned to a new English language proficiency (ELP) assessment. The new Colorado ELP assessment is the ACCESS for ELLs developed by the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium. The previous ELP assessment (adapted from LAS-Links) was the Colorado English Language Acquisition Proficiency assessment (CELAPro) and was administered from 2007-2012. The state adopted the WIDA English language proficiency standards in 2009 and starting in the 2012-2013 school year, joined the WIDA consortium in administering WIDA's ACCESS for ELLs.

Potential Impacts

Transitioning between assessments raises some interesting questions about the validity of the percentiles created by the Growth Model calculations. While the underlying English language proficiency constructs in the two assessments (CELApro and ACCESS for ELLs) have some constructs in common, the ACCESS for ELLs assessment includes additional constructs. The impact of this transition on the student growth percentiles is still unknown. Data will be analyzed starting at the end of April to investigate the impact.

As a result of the unknown impact on the growth percentiles, accountability measures that use English language proficiency growth may be affected (School and District Performance Frameworks and Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO)). Specifically, the following two metrics will be considered in light of the transition:

- *Median Growth Percentiles*: CDE needs to examine the validity of the growth percentiles calculated from the CELApro assessment to the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.
- *Adequate Growth Percentiles*: CDE does not believe that the calculation of AGPs will be possible in this transition year due to the lack of data necessary for such determinations (i.e., the between-year relationship between ACCESS for ELLs scores).

Proposed Options Regarding the Performance Frameworks

Path A: Apply English language proficiency growth performance framework sub-indicator using the Median Growth Percentiles only (without reference to Adequate Growth).

Path B: Exclude the English language proficiency growth sub-indicators from the 2013-2014 performance frameworks.

Advisory Request for the Technical Advisory Board

CDE has provided this document to the TAP as an information item and to obtain feedback concerning our proposed course of action regarding this transition. CDE welcomes suggestions of data analyses to confirm or deny the validity of the Median Growth percentiles for use in accountability measures.

Proposed Timeline

Event	CDE Activity	CDE Action
End of April	ACCESS Data Received by CDE	CDE staff will run the growth model on CELApro to ACCESS assessment
End of April-end of May	CDE will analyze the results of the English language proficiency growth calculations	Report Findings to the TAP
End of May	TAP Meeting	CDE will request recommendations from the TAP
June	Decision made concerning Plan A or B	Decision shared with field
August	Release SPF/DPF with modified ELP Growth Metric	Modify SPF/DPF
September	Release of AMAOs with modified ELP Growth Metric	Modify AMAOs