

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DANIEL GOHL
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

Phone: 754-321-2618

Signatures on File

December 6, 2019

TO: All Principals

FROM: Daniel Gohl
Chief Academic Officer

VIA: Valerie Wanza, Ph.D.
Chief School Performance & Accountability Officer

**ACTION
REQUIRED**

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Accommodations of the Statewide Assessment Program Instruments and Procedures for English Language Learners (ELLs)

ACTION: Effective December 2019, ELLs exited from the ESOL program who are in the two-year follow-up period (coded LF in state data systems) receive testing accommodations on statewide assessments as indicated in the Testing Administration Manuals. These accommodations are assigned on ELlevation during the Post-Exit Monitoring Meeting and will appear in the Meeting Summary Report.

These same accommodations must be provided on a regular basis during classroom instruction and assessments (classroom and district).

RATIONALE: On November 15, 2019, The State Board of Education approved an amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091, F.A.C., to allow recently exited ELLs (LF) to continue receiving accommodations for the statewide assessment program.

For more information contact **Richard Baum, Director, Student Assessment and Research** at **754-321-2518** or richard.baum@browardschools.com or **Victoria Saldala, Director, Bilingual/ESOL** at **754-321-2590** or victoria.saldala@browardschools.com

DG/VW/RB/VBS:jas

Attachments

c: Senior Leadership Team



State Board of Education

Andy Tuck, *Chair*
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Richard Corcoran
Commissioner of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Contacts for English for Speakers of Other Languages
School District Assessment Contacts

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: November 15, 2019

**SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.),
Accommodations of the Statewide Assessment Program Instruments and
Procedures for English Language Learners**

The State Board of Education approved an amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091, F.A.C., on November 15, 2019, to allow recently exited English language learners (ELLs) to continue to receive accommodations for the statewide assessment program. The effect of this amendment is that ELLs exited from the ESOL program within two years, and therefore in the two-year follow-up period, coded LF in state data systems, could receive accommodations on the statewide assessment program as indicated in the Testing Administration Manuals. The rule revision becomes effective in December 2019.

Please ensure that your recently exited ELLs have the opportunity to receive accommodations on the statewide assessment program per this change. Thank you for all of your efforts to improve the academic outcomes of Florida's ELLs.

JO/ce

Contact Information:

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JACOB OLIVA
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091

Accommodations for Statewide Assessments

Question & Answer Guide

The State Board of Education approved an amendment to Rule 6A-6.09091, F.A.C., on November 15, 2019, to allow recently exited English language learners (ELLs) to continue to receive accommodations for the statewide assessment program. The effect of this amendment is that ELLs exited from the ESOL program within two years, and therefore in the two-year follow-up period, coded LF in state data systems, could receive accommodations on the statewide assessment program as indicated in the Testing Administration Manuals. The rule revision becomes **effective in December 2019.**

Please ensure recently exited ELLs (LFs) have the opportunity to receive accommodations on the statewide assessment program per this change.

Q: Should accommodations for recently exited ELLs (LFs) be implemented during Instructional time?

A: Test accommodations must be documented on ELLevation as part of the student's ELL Plan. The same accommodations must also be provided on a regular basis, during classroom instruction and documented as ESOL Instructional Strategies in the teacher's plan book.

Q: Which recently exited (LF) ELLs receive accommodations?

A: ALL LF students are eligible to receive accommodations for statewide assessment program and classroom instruction.

Q: How do we decide which accommodations to use?

A: The accommodations are determined by the ESOL Contact in collaboration with Instructional Staff at the school location.

Q: Do LF students have to receive all accommodations?

A: LF students receive the accommodations they are eligible to receive at the location.

Q: Where do I document allowable accommodations per student?

A: Accommodations for students are documented on ELLevation platform. Accommodations are captured during the Post-Exit Monitoring Meeting and will appear on the Meeting Summary Report.

Q: Will the Bilingual/ESOL Department purchase additional Word-to-Word Dictionaries and Content Glossaries for our school location?

A: Schools must use their school funds or Title III allocation to purchase materials.

Q: Do parents have to be notified of testing accommodations?

A: The "Testing: Flexible Setting Accommodation" letter is available for this purpose in English, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish. A copy of this letter must be generated, saved and filed in the ELL Folder, as well as, uploaded in the Documents tab in ELLevation.

Q: Where can I find detailed information about allowable accommodations?

A: The ESOL Handbook Section 5 contains information on accommodations for instruction and testing.

Q: Does this apply to ACT and SAT in addition to FSA?

A: At this time, ACT and SAT have not made recommendations for their individual assessments.

Hello Florida Partners,

At Ellevation, we know that each year presents new opportunities for your EL students, as well as changes in state policy. Due to a recent state rule amendment, beginning in December 2019, students that are their first or second year of monitoring (LFs), are now allowed to receive accommodations on the Statewide Assessment. With this in mind, we want you to know how Ellevation can support you in assigning accommodations and documenting these decisions in meetings for your LF students.

How can I filter for current LFs and assign accommodations?

- Click [HERE](#) to watch a short video that will walk through the process.

What filters might help me narrow down LFs that may need accommodations?



- For additional support, please feel free to review our Resource Center Article: [Assign Testing Accommodations/Designated Supports for Multiple Students at Once](#)

How can I add assigning and reviewing accommodation into my current meetings?

- Click [HERE](#) to watch a short video that will walk through the process.
- For additional support, please review [Configure Meetings: Add Action Items](#)

What reports are available to show that accommodations have been assigned for my LFs?

- Click [HERE](#) to watch a short video that will walk through the process.
- For additional support, please review: [Generate Reports and Listings](#) and [Generate Meeting/LPAC Reports](#)

**This change is reflected in Rule: 6a-6.09091 Accommodations of the Statewide Assessment Program Instruments and Procedures for English Language Learners. To learn more, visit the [Florida Department of State website](#).*

SECTION 5

ACCOMMODATIONS

In this section, you will find information on the following:

- Accommodations for English Language Learners
- Procedures for Notifying Parents
- Procedures for Documenting Accommodations on ELLevation
- Frequently Asked Questions

Accommodations for ELLs

ELLs identified as LY and LF are provided accommodations in the administration of statewide assessments consistent with the requirements of State Board of Education rule 6A-6.09091 and with the accommodations available for the FSA and EOC assessments <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments>.

Students coded as LA are not eligible to receive testing accommodations.

Districts are required to offer accommodations to ELLs (LY and LF) who are currently receiving services in a program operated in accordance with an approved district ELL Plan. Permissible accommodations for these ELLs are listed below. The test may be administered with any one of these or a combination of accommodations that are determined to be appropriate for the particular needs of the ELL.

Flexible Setting. ELLs may be offered the opportunity to be tested in a separate room with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or heritage language teacher acting as test administrator. Parents/guardians must be informed of this option for students not of legal age and shall be given the opportunity to select the preferred method of test administration.

Flexible Scheduling/Additional Time. ELLs may take a session of the test during several brief periods within one school day; however, a session of the test must be completed within one school day. ELLs may be provided additional time up to the end of the school day for each test session. Each test session must be completed within one school day.

Assistance in Heritage Language. For specified portions of the tests, ELLs may be provided limited assistance by an ESOL or heritage language teacher using the student's heritage language. This should not be interpreted as permission to read aloud or provide oral presentation of test content in English or in the student's heritage language. Assistance in the student's heritage language is limited to answering specific questions about words or phrases that are confusing the student because of limited English proficiency. Questions must not be answered in a way that would assist the student or lead the student to infer correct/incorrect responses. **All student responses must be written in English.** Responses written in languages other than English will not be scored. During portions of state assessments that may be read aloud to students with **Approved Dictionary and glossary.** For testing, ELLs must have access to an English-to-heritage language translation dictionary and/or heritage language-to-English translation dictionary, such as those made available to ELLs in an instructional setting. The dictionary must provide word-to-word translations only and must not contain definitions or other information. Electronic translation dictionaries that provide word-to-word translations only without access to the internet may be used. ELLs may have access to a complete dictionary for instructional purposes.

Training is provided on the procedures for administration of statewide assessments including appropriate accommodations for ELLs by the Student Assessment & Research Department.

Testing accommodations consistent with those offered on the FSA are also offered to ELLs during the administration of state assessments.

Testing accommodations must be documented on ELLevation as part of the student's ELL Plan. These same accommodations must also be provided on a regular basis, during classroom instruction and documented as ESOL Instructional Strategies in the teacher's plan book. Please refer to Section 12 for procedures documenting accommodations on ELLevation.

The Testing Flexible Setting Accommodation letter is available for the purpose of informing parents. The letter is available in English, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish. A copy of the letter must be generated, saved, and filed in the ELL Folder as well as uploaded in the Documents Tab in ELLevation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Section 5: Statewide Assessment and Accommodations

Q: Are testing accommodations for ELLs provided only for state assessments such as FSA?

A: No. These same accommodations must be provided on a regular basis during classroom instruction and documented as ESOL Instructional Strategies in the teacher's plan book.

Q: How are accommodations documented for ELLs?

A: Testing accommodations must be documented on ELLevation as part of the students' ELL Plan. These accommodations are assigned on ELLevation during the Post-Exit Monitoring Meeting and will appear in the Meeting Summary Report.

Q: Must parents be notified of provided testing accommodations?

A: The flexible setting accommodation requires parent notification. The "Testing: Flexible Setting Accommodation" letter is available for this purpose in English, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish. A copy of this letter must be generated, saved and filed in the ELL Folder, as well as, uploaded in the Documents tab in ELLevation.

Q: Should ESOL services be documented on their report cards?

A: Yes, accommodations are one of the strategies on the Instructional Strategies Matrix.