

Language of Assessment (LoA) Overview

The purpose of Language of Assessment student lists is to align Language of Instruction and Language of Assessment, which allows Spanish-speaking ELs in ELA-S and ELA-S/E classrooms in TNLI and Dual Language Programming to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish as they move toward bilingualism and biliteracy. Spanish is the primary language of literacy instruction in grades K-3, per the [DPS Language Allocation Guidelines](#). Students are better able to demonstrate proficiency in the language in which they are primarily instructed, and are also able to transition into English at higher rates of proficiency. Click here to learn more about the [DPS Language Allocation Guidelines](#).

Language of Assessment and Grade 3 Colorado Spanish Language Arts

In response to the CMAS ELA and CSLA data from the 2015-16 school year, we will make a significant change to the ACCESS cut points for Required/Recommended students on the Grade 3 Language of Assessment student list. This past year, students in the Recommended category (ACCESS 3.5-6.0) did not demonstrate proficiency on CMAS ELA until ACCESS 6.0. Therefore, starting in the 2016-17 school year, the Colorado Spanish Language Arts (CSLA) assessment will be required for all PPF1 Grade 3 students in ELA-S or ELA-S/E classrooms. This requirement, which extends to those students who have been enrolled in a U.S. school for five or fewer years starting in grade 1, will include all grade 3 students. Language of Assessment student lists for CSLA will be available in [School Folders](#) on Oct. 4.

Language of Assessment and Grade 4 Colorado Spanish Language Arts

There have been no changes to Grade 4 Required/Recommended student lists for CSLA. The CSLA assessment will continue to be recommended for all PPF1 Grade 4 students in ELA-S or ELA-S/E classrooms. This recommendation extends to those students who have been enrolled in a U.S. school for five or fewer years starting in grade 1. Please note: Grade 4 PPF1 students also performed at a higher level of proficiency when they were assessed on the CSLA; however, electing to assess these students with the CSLA will be a school-based decision. Language of Assessment student lists for CSLA will be available in [School Folders](#) on Oct. 4.

Language of Assessment and K-3 READ Act Assessments

All PPF1 students in ELA-S or ELA-S/E classrooms in grades K-3 are strongly recommended to take their Beginning of Year, Mid-Year, and End of Year READ Act assessments in Spanish. Reminder: An additional assessment must be administered in English to comply with the CDE requirement to assess all ELs at least once annually in English. Language of Assessment student lists for READ Act will be available in School Folders on Oct. 10.

Supporting Information

Both CMAS ELA and CSLA scores are weighed equally in SPF status measures. READ Act assessments in the language in which the student receives most of their literacy instruction, as indicated by the teacher, are included in SPF measures. A small number of schools may need to request waivers from Language of Assessment Requirements.

Waiver Requests

If there are CSLA-Required students who will better be able to demonstrate proficiency on CMAS ELA, school leaders are to review them with the Instructional Superintendent and provide the pertinent information and evidence in the Language of Assessment Waiver Request Form, found in the Oasis tab in the [Assessment App](#). This form will be available on Oct. 10. Waivers will be processed within one week. Language of Assessment Waiver requests must be submitted in the application by Feb. 15. Waiver requests received after Feb. 15 cannot be considered due to the deadline for ordering testing materials.

Questions & Resources

- For Language Allocation Guideline and CSLA-Required student waiver questions, contact Adrienne_Endres@dpsk12.org
- For Language of Assessment questions, contact Jonnathan_Smith@dpsk12.org