



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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What is the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment?

The Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (WELPA) is a test that is used to see if students need support through the district's English language development (ELD) program. This assessment tests reading, writing, listening and speaking knowledge and skills in English. Students in Kindergarten through grade 12 take this test once a year to measure how much growth they have made in learning English at school. Since knowing and using English well is necessary for success in school, it is important that students who need additional help learning English get the help they need.

How do students qualify for a district's English language development program?

When students enroll in school, parents are asked "Did your child first speak a language other than English?" If the answer is "yes", the student takes the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (WELPA) Placement Test. Students who score at Levels 1 (beginning), 2 (intermediate), or 3 (advanced) on the Placement Test qualify for additional help to improve their English.

How long do students receive services through the district's English language development program?

Students continue in the program as long as they need help learning English. The WELPA Annual Test is given to measure students' growth in English language knowledge and skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. A score at Levels 1, 2, or 3 on the WELPA determines that the student will continue in program. Students successfully transition from the program when they meet the exit criteria on the WELPA.