

Accountability for English Learners: Enrollment and Inclusion FAQs

Office of Accountability, Oklahoma State Department of Education (April 2025)

As the Accountability System requires identification of English Learners (ELs) as well as ELs “recently arrived” in their first two years of US instruction, the Office of Accountability has compiled the following information to assist districts

Why is it important for my ELs, including RAELS, to be identified?

Progress towards English Language proficiency is a federally required indicator of the ESSA accountability system. The accuracy and reliability of this indicator is predicated on the correct identification of the EL student population. Additionally, accountability data on all indicators are federally required to be disaggregated by subgroup, including English Learners (ELs). Also, for the Academic Achievement indicator, English Language Learners are one of the priority student groups to which a student may be assigned. Additionally, Recently Arrived status (RAEL) may impact how a student is included in the Academic Achievement and Academic Growth indicators for their first two years in country.

How does Recently Arrived status affect a student?

Because of the increased emphasis on growth and improvement in the new Accountability system, there are no longer exemptions from state assessments for 1st year in the US. Instead, RAELs will have their assessments used as follows:

- Year 1: **Participation only**
- Year 2: **Participation and Academic Growth** (grades 3-8)
- Year 3 (full inclusion): **Participation, Academic Achievement, and Academic Growth** (grades 3-8)

What if my student received an ELL 1st Year in the U.S. exemption last year?

Students who were exempt from the ELA OSTP in 2017 will have their scores used as follows:

- 2024: **Participation and Academic Growth** (math only, grades 3-8)
- 2025: **Participation, Academic Achievement, and Academic Growth** (grades 3-8)

How are RAEL students identified?

Students are pre-identified as RAEL (year 1 or year 2) by their enrollment records submitted to the Wave. If a student is identified with an entry code indicating original entry into the US, they will be identified as RAEL year 1. If the student was identified as original entry into the US in the previous school year, the student would be RAEL year 2. Note that RAEL status is not school-specific. So, if a student is being educated for the first time in the US in a given school year, and then transfers to another school in that same year, the RAEL status will carry, as the student is RAEL year 1 for the full school year.

What if the student exits to another country and then comes back?

RAEL status is based on **original entry into the US only**. If a student has exited to another country and returns after more than one full academic year, the student will reset their baseline for WIDA ACCESS and the ELPA indicator, **however this reset does not carry over into the OSTP testing (for Academic Achievement and Growth)**. The student will begin with appropriate inclusion based on number of years in the US, whether or not consecutive.

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What are the correct entry codes?

Entry Code (May vary based on SIS)	Description	When to Use
1838	Student has had no prior education, and is being educated for the first time in the US.	Since this indicates no prior education, often used for Pre-K or Kindergarten
1839	Original entry into a US school with no interruption in schooling.	Student was educated in another country prior, but this is first time receiving schooling in the US. No interruption of schooling for any reason. This is generally used for foreign exchange students.
1840	Original entry into a US school with interruption in schooling.	Student was educated in another country prior, but this is first time receiving schooling in the US. Student has had interruption in schooling prior to entry.
1830	Student entering from outside the country.	Student is reentering the US from another country. Student has previously received schooling in the US.

*Please note that if a student is RAEL but transfers to you from another stateside school, you should use the appropriate entry code (e.g. 1821, 1822, 1823). The RAEL status will carry over from a prior enrollment record in the same year, or will need to be verified and updated in the Assessment Correction Window (see next question).

When will I be able to review if my students are correctly coded?

During the Assessment Correction Window (June), districts will review their student assessment data and have the opportunity to request verification or updates as appropriate. Included in the student's assessment record will be a column labeled "Recently Arrived English Learner Status" that will be marked Year 1, 2, or No (for not RAEL). During this window, districts will review the RAEL status for their students. **This status will be prepopulated from the student's enrollment records.** However, in scenarios where the enrollment records are inconclusive in the RAEL status of a student, a district may submit a Data Verification Request (DVR) during this window with documentation to update the RAEL status. For example, a student transfers to an Oklahoma school from Kansas during the school year, and it is the student's first year of schooling in the US. Because they transferred from KS, the entry code would be 1823, and would not prepopulate as RAEL. The district would submit a DVR with documentation from the sending school (showing original entry) and the Office of Accountability would update the student to RAEL year 1.

How can I get more help?

For more assistance on the effect of English Learner and RAEL status on Accountability please contact the Office of Accountability at (405) 522-5169 or accountability@sde.ok.gov.

