



State of Rhode Island
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TO: District Superintendents
District MLL Directors and Coordinators

FROM: Lisa M. Foehr, Chief
Division of Teaching and Learning

SUBJECT: Multilingual Learner Exit/Reclassification Criteria

This document outlines the minimum criteria that Multilingual Learners (MLL) must meet in order to be eligible for exit MLL status.

Given the growing student population, RIDE created the [Blueprint for Multilingual Learner Success](#) and its accompanying [Strategic Plan](#) to help provide Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with a clear roadmap to improve services and outcomes for MLLs. As part of this effort, RIDE has been examining the success of our MLLs as they move through levels of English language proficiency and continues its commitment to data analysis and student success. RIDE consulted and worked with national experts and reviewed best-practice state policies as it pertains to criteria students must meet to demonstrate English proficiency and exit MLL status. Starting with the 2026 WIDA ACCESS results, the statewide exit scores are the following:

Exit Criteria:

1. Students in **grades K-12** may exit MLL status if they have achieved an **overall score of 4.8 or above on WIDA ACCESS** or a **Proficiency score of 4 or above on the WIDA Alternate ACCESS**.
2. Students in **grades 3-8, 10, and 11** may exit MLL status if they achieve an **overall score between 4.5 to 4.7 on the WIDA ACCESS assessment and have achieved a proficiency score on a state English Language Arts assessment** (i.e. RICAS in grades 3-8, school day PSAT in grade 10, or SAT in grade 11) at “meets” or “exceeds” (Level 3 or 4) in that same year.

The criteria outlined in this document are a minimum requirement for eligibility for reclassification. A student may not be exited from MLL status unless they meet these requirements. For all students exiting MLL status, the LEA must notify parents or guardians and explain the reclassification decision in their preferred language. However, an LEA is not under any obligation to exit a student who exceeds these requirements if the LEA has compelling evidence that continued participation in a Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) is in the best interest of the student.

If you have questions regarding this information, please e-mail Flavia Molea Baker, MLL Program Coordinator at flavia.moleabaker@ride.ri.gov.

Note: Periodic standard setting processes and assessment updates and improvements require statewide data analysis to ascertain the exit criteria are aligned to proficiency scores. In 2026, WIDA is engaging in a standard setting that might impact future changes to Rhode Island current cut scores.

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