

MLL/ELL Identification Process Frequently Asked Questions

In today's diverse educational landscape, catering to the diverse needs of students is paramount. Among these needs, supporting Multilingual Learners (MLL) or English Language Learners (MLL/ELL) stands as a crucial priority. These students bring a wealth of cultural backgrounds and languages to the classroom, enriching the learning environment. However, to ensure their academic success and integration, it's essential for educational institutions to provide tailored support that addresses their language acquisition and academic needs.

Here are some frequently asked questions for the MLL/ELL identification process:

How do schools identify MLL/ELL students once they are enrolled in the charter school?

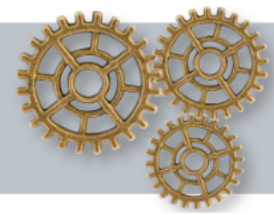
Under federal mandate, schools must administer a home language survey at the time of entrance. If a student is identified as potentially MLL/ELL after the home language survey and informal interview, the school must administer a valid and reliable English language proficiency assessment to determine if the student is an MLL/ELL.

What is the timeline for administering the home language survey/language proficiency assessment for a new student?

According to federal regulations, charter schools must inform parents of MLL/ELL students about their identification and services within 30 days of the school year's start. This necessitates completing the identification process within the same timeframe. New York State, governed by CR 154, enforces a shorter timeline for district schools, requiring MLL/ELL student identification within 10 school days of enrollment for various situations, such as new Kindergarteners, transfers, or recent arrivals to the country or state. While this strict deadline applies to district schools, charter schools also need to identify MLL/ELL students in the ATS attendance system. Due to the 10 school day constraint in NYC DOE, all schools, including charters, cannot alter an MLL/ELL student's designation after 10 school days into the DOE's academic year. If charter schools face ATS access issues beyond this period, they must seek overrides through the DOE's Office of School Design and Charter Partnerships. Additionally, students eligible for the NYSITELL but not assessed with it are automatically classified as MLL/ELL and are expected to take the NYSESLAT in spring.

What valid and reliable English language proficiency assessment is available for schools to administer to potential MLL/ELL students?

New York State has created the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) as its valid and reliable English language proficiency assessment.



An incoming student has an IEP. Does the school still administer the NYSITELL?

Possibly, charter schools must adhere to CR 154-3 guidelines, wherein each school is mandated to establish a Language Proficiency Team (LPT). This team convenes to assess whether a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and is eligible for the NYSITELL, should:

- Take the NYSITELL, or
- Take the NYSITELL with accommodations, or
- Not take the NYSITELL
- The LPT process must be completed within 20 school days of initial enrollment.