

5-15-19

Dear EL Coordinators and Teachers,

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) recently announced a change to the criteria for students to exit from EL support programs. This change was communicated in [Memo 2019-064](#) and was made to ensure students do not exit active EL status before they are ready.

Discussions with other states in our WIDA collaborative, who use multiple criterion for EL exit determinations, prompted WDE to further look at our EL data. WDE staff conducted an examination of last year's EL data and concluded that adding the Literacy criterion to the EL exit criteria would minimize the likelihood of false positives when determining EL student proficiency in English. The review of last year's data showed 32 students would not have met the full exit criteria if it had been in place. In order to ensure the best and most accurate decisions are made on behalf of Wyoming students, this change is in immediate effect.

As an agency, we do not take decisions like this one lightly, and understand that the short timeline may complicate the implementation of this change. However, the importance of guarding against false positives and ensuring EL students are receiving every support they may need necessitates this change.

If we can be of assistance to you as you communicate this change to educators, students, and families, please let us know. Thank you for your valuable, vital work. As always, Antoinette Hallam, EL Consultant, is available to further assist you at 307-777-5217.

Sincerely,

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