



To: Elementary School Principals
From: Paul Spence, Coordinator of International Programs
Through: Dr. Kevin Hasinger, Executive Director of Secondary Education
Date: April 16, 2026
Re: Assessment of Rising Kindergarteners

Dear Principals,

Due to federal regulations, Richland One is required to administer a language proficiency test to all rising kindergartners whose Home Language Surveys (HLS) indicate a language other than English.

While they cannot waive the screener or subsequent ACCESS testing, parents can either accept or waive Multilingual Learner Program (MLP) services. If they accept services, they will receive information about the program and their assigned MLP school, which may or may not be in their attendance zone. If they waive MLP services they will need to complete and sign an MLP waiver form, which will be administered by an MLP Specialist.

MLP Specialists at the MLP schools will administer the assessment to Prekindergarten students with an English proficiency of '11' in PowerSchool. Our department will send certified personnel from the International Welcome Center to assess students at non-MLP schools. This process significantly reduces the number of unidentified MLP students and errors in language proficiency codification in PowerSchool.

Schools are advised to ensure, through their Database Specialists, that all Prekindergarten students have a Home Language Survey in their permanent record, and that those with a language other than English are coded correctly (English proficiency 11) in PowerSchool by April 22, 2025. To ensure compliance, the IWC will follow up with all Database Specialists at schools with Prekindergarten programs.

Our department will send the attached letter to all parents whose Prekindergarten children qualify for English language proficiency testing. The letter explains the reason for the evaluation, dates, and location for the assessment. Additionally, parents have already signed the attached MLP Form B notifying them of enrollment procedures and services for English learners. This form accompanies the HLS in the Enrollment Portal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Spence', followed by a long horizontal line.

Paul Spence
Coordinator of International Programs