



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

March 19, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Several of Wisconsin's larger school districts currently serve a significant number of English Language Learners (ELL) who attend private schools within the district. This letter is an advisory regarding the federal requirements and expectations regarding private school students who are eligible to receive Title III services and to ensure eligible private school children are counted in determining public school Title III allocations.

Public schools receiving Title III services must establish a consistent and reasonable process for identifying ELL students in private schools. Like participating public school students, identified English language learners in private schools must be assessed annually for their level of English proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and comprehension. Local school districts, in consultation with private schools, are responsible for administering an annual English language proficiency (ELP) assessment. A portion of the per pupil Title III allocation may be used to pay this cost.

The ELP required assessment used by public schools in Wisconsin is the ACCESS for ELLs™ (ACCESS) but because the testing window for the 2007 administration of ACCESS has ended, we will consider as eligible all private school ELLs determined as such if assessed with the W-APT (WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test/screener) and reported to DPI by June 1, 2007. A downloadable form for reporting and verifying the count of assessed and eligible English language learners in private schools will be available on the following page of the DPI web site by May 1, 2007 www.dpi.wi.gov/oea/ells.html.

In future years, to ensure compliance with federal requirements, ACCESS will be the required assessment instrument for both public and private school students.

For further information or technical assistance please contact one of the ELL program staff at DPI: Jacqueline Iribarren, 608-266-7292, Jacqueline.iribarren@dpi.state.wi.us, or Tolu Sanabria, 608-267-9235, tolu.sanabria@dpi.state.wi.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Thompson".

Michael J. Thompson, Ph.D.
Executive Assistant
Office of the State Superintendent

MT/mjp

c: CESA Administrators