

USING STANDARDIZED TESTING TO ASSESS STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENT

The School District of Colby supports the DPI mandated assessment as required by State Statute. Results are used for diagnostic purposes for instruction as well as for program evaluation.

Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian, a student shall be excused from taking the state-required 4th, 8th and 10th grade tests.

Testing of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

1. General Considerations
 - a. Test results shall not be used as the sole criterion in exiting LEP students from a bilingual-bicultural education program or in determining grade promotion, eligibility for courses or programs, eligibility for graduation or eligibility for postsecondary education opportunities.
 - b. The District shall not penalize an LEP student who is exempted from taking the required tests by denying grade promotion, eligibility for courses or programs, eligibility for graduation or eligibility for postsecondary education opportunities.
 - c. The parent/guardian of an LEP student shall be notified at least 30 days prior to the administration of the test regarding the student's inclusion in or exemption from the test; the criteria used in determining the student's inclusion in or exclusion from the test; and, an explanation of how the results of the test will be used.

The test results of each LEP student shall also be given to the student's parent/guardian.

All notices provided to parents/guardians of LEP students shall be given in such manner so as to ensure understanding of the notices. They should be provided in English, the parent/guardian's native language or any other means to convey the required information.

2. Wisconsin Mandated Student Assessment
 - a. When determining whether to administer state-required tests to LEP students, school staff shall apply and document all of the following criteria:
 - whether the student has had an opportunity to master the competencies for which he/she is being tested;
 - whether the student demonstrates test-taking skills; and,
 - whether a teacher of the LEP student has attested that the student has sufficient academic and English proficiency to take the required test with or without modifications.
 - b. Decisions regarding testing shall be made and documented on an individual basis for each LEP student.
 - c. If it is determined that the LEP student should take the required test, the format and administration of the test may be modified based on the individual student's needs and in compliance with alternative methods as provided by the State.
 - d. A student with LEP shall be administered the required test(s) if he/she:
 - understands and speaks English well but needs assistance in reading and writing in English to achieve at a level appropriate for his/her age or grade.
 - understands, speaks, reads and writes English with some degree of hesitancy which may be due to language interference because of a foreign language or non-proficient English spoken at home.

LEGAL REFERENCES: Wisconsin Stats. 118.30, 118.33