

February 15, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local Education Agency ESOL, Testing, and Student Record Coordinators

**FROM:** Chris Domaleski, Ph.D., Director, Testing  
Elizabeth Webb, Director, Innovative Academic Programs

**SUBJECT:** GHSGT and CRCT Testing Requirements for ELL Students in their First Year of Enrollment in US Schools for the 2006-2007 Academic Year

This memo serves to clarify requirements related to the testing of identified English Language Learners (ELLs).

- Current guidance allows ELL students completing the Accessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) for ELLs assessment in their **first academic year** of enrollment in US schools to defer from participating in all content areas of the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) and the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) **except mathematics. Students must participate in all mathematics assessments.**
- The 2006-2007 testing window for administering the ACCESS for ELLs began on January 22, 2007 and continues through March 2, 2007. Any new students enrolling after the testing window and who meet the state's criteria to be screened for language assistance services, are to be screened using the new state screening instrument, the W-APT. Training on this new instrument was delivered statewide in early February, and the short LAB will no longer be a valid screening instrument as of March 3, 2007.
- Newly enrolled students who are identified as ELLs and are unable to be assessed with ACCESS due to the date of their enrollment are not eligible to defer any CRCT or GHSGT assessments. They must participate in all required state assessments that take place after enrollment. Like their eligible peers, their CRCT and GHSGT scores will not count towards a school's AYP calculations during their **first academic year** of enrollment in US schools.

- Systems will not be required to report screening instrument scores (W-APT or short LAB) to the Georgia Department of Education. Results from the screening assessment are reflected in student records by the “Y” or “N” coding in the ELL field. By indicating a student’s ELL status as “Y” in Student Record, a system is acknowledging that the short LAB or W-APT has been administered and the results identified the student as eligible for services. A status of “N” in the ELL field is used to indicate the student is not eligible for services.

It is our hope that this information provides needed clarity and direction as you identify and test students. Please contact Dr. Chris Scott in Title III at (404) 463-2588 or [clscott@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:clscott@doe.k12.ga.us) or Deborah Houston in the Testing Division at 404-657-0251 or [dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us) should you have questions or concerns.

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