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*System Training and Response (STaR) Team – SAIS Information Series*

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## **New SAIS Requirements for ELL – Fiscal Year 2008**

This document is intended to describe changes to SAIS reporting requirements for fiscal year 2008 regarding English Language Learner Programs. Please note that additional changes may be necessary due to rulings of the Office of English Language Acquisition Services, the Arizona State Legislature, State and Federal courts and/or the Arizona English Language Learner Task Force.

### **Introduction**

There are several changes to SAIS reporting requirements for fiscal year 2008 that apply to English Language Learner programs.

- A student may now be reported as absent on his/her first day of ELL program participation.
- Submission of Language Participation Status Codes is no longer required.
- A new Overall Assessment Result Code has been added while the use of two others has been discontinued.
- Validations will be performed to ensure that a student's reported Proficiency Level is consistent with the reported Overall Assessment Result.
- An Integrity level warning has been added to indicate that a student whose records indicate an Overall Assessment Result of *Reclassified Fluent English Proficient* should be removed from ELL program participation prior to the end of the school year.
- SAIS will now accept actual scaled assessment scores when the Overall Assessment Result is *Continuing Fluent English Proficient*.
- Information will be added to certain Student Detail reports to indicate if a student who has been identified as *Continuing FEP* has acquired that status for the first or second year.
- Assessment periods (dates defining when assessments may be administered) have been established.
- An option to administer two assessments for a student during a single fiscal year under certain circumstances has been added.

Details regarding these changes are provided on the following pages.

## Allowing Absence on First Day of Participation

Prior to Fiscal Year 2008, a rule forbidding a student from having a record of an absence on his/her first day of ELL program participation was enforced in SAIS Student Integrity processing. This rule corresponded to guidelines that had been in place to define a student's first day of school membership (enrollment date). However, guidelines defining a student's enrollment date were changed for Fiscal Year 2007 though this particular ELL program participation rule was not. The rule change for Fiscal Year 2008, which now allows a student to be absent on the first day of his/her reported ELL program participation start date simply makes the guidelines for defining the first day of ELL program participation consistent with those governing the first day of school membership.

Additional details regarding a student's enrollment date may be found in "Defining the First Day of Membership" available as part of the *SAIS Information Series* at <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/star>

Please note that although a student may be absent on his/her first day of ELL program participation, the student must have a record of school membership in SAIS for each day of participation in an ELL program.

## Language Program Status

Prior to fiscal year 2008, LEAs were required to submit information as part of the Language Program Participation transaction (13) indicating whether the student was new to an ELL program or continuing in an ELL program. For fiscal year 2008 and beyond, LEAs are no longer required to submit this information. Any value submitted in the corresponding field in the Language Program Participation transaction will be ignored. Instead, SAIS will determine each student's status based on current records in the Student Detail Database. The SDELL71 report, available in the download area of the Student Detail Data Interchange (SDDI), will display a student's language program status as determined by SAIS.

SAIS will designate a student who has one and only one record of participation in an ELL program throughout Arizona as a "New" ELL program participant.

SAIS will designate a student who has more than one record of participation in an ELL program in Arizona as a "Continuing" ELL program participant.

An ELL program participation record is created each time a student is reported as having entered a program in a particular school for the first time each school year and if he/she re-enters a program in the same school during the same school year.

## Overall Assessment Results

### Code Changes

Beginning in fiscal year 2008, overall assessment result codes (submitted as part of the Student Assessment transaction) {1} *New ELL* and {2} *Continuing ELL* will no longer be used to report student assessment results. Instead, the assessment result for most students

who are deemed to be eligible to participate in an ELL program will be reported with code {7} *ELL*.<sup>1</sup> Please note that Overall Assessment Result code {5} *ELL After Reclassification*<sup>2</sup> continues to be used to identify assessment results for students who are eligible to return to participate in an ELL program after having been reclassified as Fluent English Proficient.

### **The Overall Assessment Result must align with the Overall Proficiency**

From fiscal year 2008 forward, when a student's Overall Proficiency Level is submitted as *Proficient* {P}, the submitted Overall Assessment Result must be *Initial FEP* {4}, *Reclassified FEP* {3}, or *Continuing FEP* {6}. Additionally, when the Overall Assessment Result submitted for a student indicates that he/she is eligible to be in an ELL program (*ELL* {7} or *ELL after reclassification* {5}) the submitted Overall Proficiency Level must be something other than *Proficient* (i.e., *Pre-Emergent*, *Emergent*, *Basic*, *Intermediate*).

### **Reclassified FEP Integrity Warning**

An Integrity level warning will be generated beginning in fiscal year 2008 if a student has a record of an assessment with an Overall Proficiency Level of *Reclassified Fluent English Proficient*. The warning will indicate that the student should be exited from the ELL program before the end of the school year. In order to be counted as *Reclassified FEP* for purposes of determining Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs), records showing both the appropriate Overall Assessment Result (*Reclassified FEP*) and that a student has exited from participation in an ELL program with exit reason *Reclassified as FEP by Reassessment*, must exist in SAIS. SAIS does not require that a student be exited from the program on the day of his/her assessment when the Overall Assessment Result is *Reclassified FEP*; students having a record of that assessment result may be exited on the assessment date or remain in an ELL program up until the last day of school.

Integrity warnings may be viewed in the Student Detail Data Interchange by navigating to the Download area, selecting the Student Integrity Status Report, and choosing the “No” option from the Retrieve Failures Only dropdown menu.

### **Continuing FEP - Submitting Actual Scaled Assessment Scores**

The Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) issued a memo on April 26, 2007 stating that students who are subject to monitoring due to their status as *Continuing Fluent English Proficient* must be assessed annually through the administration of the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA). Prior to fiscal year 2008, assessment transactions may have been submitted to SAIS for *Continuing FEP* students with the Total Composite Scaled Score indicated as 999. Beginning in fiscal year 2008, SAIS will accept actual scaled scores for students whose status is *Continuing FEP*.

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<sup>1</sup> ELL – The overall result of this assessment qualifies the student to be eligible to participate in an ELL program.

<sup>2</sup> ELL After Reclassification – The overall result of this assessment qualifies the student to be eligible to participate in an ELL program again. This student was previously Reclassified FEP in Arizona.

## Continuing FEP Students Identified on SDDI Reports

Beginning in fiscal year 2008, the SDELL70, SDELL72 and SDELL73 reports available in the Download area of the Student Detail Data Interchange will include information for students who have assessment records with an Overall Assessment Result of *Continuing FEP* to indicate if it is the first such record received (Continuing FEP Year 1) or if an assessment record with the same Overall Assessment Result exists in the previous fiscal year (Continuing FEP Year 2).

### Note

A memo issued by the Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) on April 26, 2007 served to inform LEAs that though assessing *Continuing FEP* students was required, submitting assessment results for such students to SAIS was optional during fiscal year 2007. SAIS is unable to accurately indicate a *Continuing FEP Year 2* status in fiscal year 2008 for a *Continuing FEP* student who was assessed during both fiscal years 2007 and 2008 unless the assessment result for fiscal year 2007 was submitted and successfully processed in SAIS. For that reason, we strongly recommend that LEAs maintain written documentation to verify any assessment administered to *Continuing FEP* students, but not reported to SAIS during fiscal year 2007.

## Assessment Periods and Second Assessment Option

The Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) has established timelines for the administration of initial and subsequent language assessments. In prior years, OELAS allowed only one assessment per student per district or charter holder within a fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2008, there is an option to assess students who are identified as “*New*” to an ELL program during the first half of the fiscal year and again at the end of the school year<sup>3</sup>.

SAIS will allow an assessment administered between July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> to be reported only for students who are determined to be “*New*” to an ELL program during that time period. The results of a second assessment administered between January 1<sup>st</sup> and the end of the school year may be submitted to SAIS for all such students.

SAIS will allow an assessment administered on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of the school year to be reported for any student who is determined to be “*Continuing*” in an ELL program, has a status of “*Continuing FEP*” or is determined to be “*New*” to an ELL program on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Statute refers to but does not clearly define “end of school year.” OELAS guidance suggests that end of year assessments be administered as close to the end of the school year as possible but that LEAs with a large number of assessments to administer between January 1<sup>st</sup> and the end of the school year may consider assessing *Continuing FEP* students beginning in January and assessing students who are participating in an ELL program no earlier than February 2<sup>nd</sup> (the day after the final ELL program participation count date).