

2019-21 Biennial Budget Decision Package

Agency: **350 – Supt of Public Instruction**

DP code/title: English Learner Assessments

Budget period: 19-21 Regular Session

Budget level: ML

Agency RecSum text:

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) [28A.180.090](#) requires school districts to assess all prospective and eligible English learners (ELs) in order to identify students in need of language assistance services. The identification process begins with an initial screening using a placement or screener assessment. Once identified, students receiving language supports are tested annually until they are determined to be proficient in English. The population of ELs is projected to continue growing, and total costs are projected to rise correspondingly. The Superintendent requests funding to support continuation of the state assessment measuring the English language acquisition of K–12 students that are classified as ELs.

Fiscal detail: To be completed by budget staff

Operating Expenditures	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Fund – State 001-01	\$5,217,000	\$5,498,000	\$5,772,000	\$6,068,000
Total Expenditures	\$5,217,000	\$5,498,000	\$5,772,000	\$6,068,00
Biennial Totals	\$10,715,000		\$11,840,000	
Staffing	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
FTEs	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Average Annual	1.0		1.0	
Object of Expenditure	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Obj. A	\$84,000	\$84,000	\$84,000	\$84,000
Obj. B	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$43,000
Obj. C	\$5,044,000	\$5,325,000	\$5,599,000	\$5,895,000
Obj. E	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$43,000
Obj. G	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Obj. J	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. N	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Biennial Totals	\$0		\$0	

Package description

School districts are required to administer a screener for initial identification of English learners (ELs). For all identified ELs, school districts must administer an annual assessment to determine progress toward English language proficiency and continued eligibility for English language development services. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) designates both assessment types.

Assessments include:

- A) English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) annual assessment of English learner proficiency, administered to students in grades K–12 who are in the transitional bilingual instructional program.
- B) ELPA21 screener to assess English proficiency of students who might be eligible for transitional bilingual services.
- C) An alternate assessment for ELs and students with significant cognitive disabilities.

School districts are required to administer the screener to all newly enrolled students whose Home Language Survey indicates the possibility of the student being an EL. School districts administer the annual assessment to all eligible ELs in grades K–12. Additionally, school districts must administer an assessment – as designated by OSPI – that is appropriate to assess EL students with significant cognitive disabilities.

As required in the 2015 federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) law, administration of an English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment is part of Washington’s K–12 accountability framework, which includes measurement of EL growth toward acquiring English language proficiency.

The Superintendent requests funding to continue providing EL assessments to students in or students who are potentially eligible for Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program (TBIP) services.

What is the problem, opportunity or priority you are addressing with the request?

The number of students in TBIP services is expected to keep growing, and thus costs for the annual assessment and screener will also continue rising.

This request will fund continuation of the existing state assessments for English learners in order to meet the mandates included in the following state and federal laws:

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the 2015 [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (Section 1111(b)(1)(f) and 1111(b)(2)(g)).
- State law (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] [28A.180.090](#)).

What is your proposed solution?

To meet the requirements associated with assessment administration and managing the technical assistance needs of schools and school districts, the proposed solution is for the budget set-aside to be equal to the total program cost to administer TBIP, as outlined in Table 1 below.

What are you purchasing and how does it solve the problem?

The TBIP assessment budget provides for administration of the assessments outlined in the package description above. In 2018, approximately 130,000 students participated in the annual English learner progress assessment across grades K–12. In addition, approximately 1,300 students with significant cognitive disabilities were expected to be assessed using the alternate English learner assessment.

The funding includes contracts with vendors who support the annual administration of the assessment, including:

- Test item development,
- Assessment development,
- Assessment research and psychometrics,
- Standard setting (establishing thresholds for performance),
- Test administration,
- Scoring of the tests, and
- Individual score reports for students.

It also includes 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to coordinate the assessment administration and support of school districts.

What alternatives did you explore and why was this option chosen?

Both state and federal law require the administration of the English learner assessment and screener. The assessments for annual testing and screening of prospective new English learners (ELs) belong to the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) consortium and were developed specific to Washington’s adopted English language proficiency standards. With each new assessment or at the end of a contract, OSPI goes through a request for proposals (RFP) process to select a vendor to administer the tests and provide other supports. The alternate assessment (testing of ELs with significant cognitive disabilities) is owned by the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium and, at present, is the only existing instrument for this purpose.

Assumptions and calculations**Expansion or alteration of a current program or service**

This is not an expansion or alteration. It is continuation of current EL assessments as required by RCW [28A.180.090](#). Funding to implement the Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program is as follows:

- FY 2016: \$2,815,396
- FY 2017: \$3,752,572
- FY 2018: \$4,269,671
- FY 2019 (projected): \$5,166,262

Detailed assumptions and calculations

Funding Breakdown				
	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
<i>ELPA21 Annual Assessment</i>				
Annual number of students tested (assumes 5 percent growth per year)	141,750	148,840	156,280	164,095
Cost per student	\$28	\$28	\$28	\$28
Test accommodations	\$365,980	\$380,160	\$395,040	\$410,670
Contract Total	\$4,334,980	\$4,547,680	\$4,770,880	\$5,005,330
<i>ELPA21 Screener</i>				
Annual number of students tested in screener test	35,440	37,210	39,070	41,025
Cost per student	\$9	\$9	\$9	\$9
Additional scoring costs (\$2 per student for 33 percent of students)	\$23,390	\$24,559	\$25,786	\$27,077
Screener accommodations	\$82,412	\$82,412	\$82,412	\$82,412
Contract Total	\$424,762	\$441,861	\$459,828	\$478,714
<i>Alternate EL Assessment</i>				
Annual number of students tested using alternate (assumes 1 percent of annual ELPA21 contract)	1,418	1,488	1,563	1,641
Cost per student	\$200	\$225	\$235	\$250
Contract Total	\$283,600	\$334,800	\$367,305	\$410,250
Total Contract Costs	\$5,043,342	\$5,324,341	\$5,598,013	\$5,894,294
Total Administrative Costs	\$173,000	\$173,000	\$173,000	\$173,000
Total TBIP Funding Needed	\$5,216,342	\$5,497,341	\$5,771,013	\$6,067,294

Table 1. Breakdown of total funding needed in order to fulfill requirements for the Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program.

Workforce assumptions

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) employs a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) coordinator who is responsible for the

administration of Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program (TBIP) activities across the state. The annual cost to employ the coordinator is \$84,000 for salary and \$43,000 for benefits. In addition, this position requires \$6,000 per year for travel, goods, and services.

Strategic and performance outcomes

Strategic framework

This request supports the Results Washington K–12 goals related to student success because the achievement of English learner students is crucial to improving Washington’s K–12 schools. English learners comprise more than 11 percent of Washington’s K–12 students.

Performance outcomes

Performance outcomes are measured with the provided assessments, including the number of students who achieve English proficiency each year, as well as students demonstrating growth in the four required areas to be assessed: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The goal is to measure the success of English Learners’ progression to transition out of transitional bilingual services within six years.

Additionally, with enactment of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (the 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act), administration of an English language proficiency assessment is now part of the state’s accountability framework, which requires measurement of English learners’ growth toward acquiring English language proficiency.

Other collateral connections

Intergovernmental

Not applicable.

Stakeholder response

Not applicable.

Legal or administrative mandates

Not applicable.

Changes from current law

Not applicable.

State workforce impacts

Not applicable.

State facilities impacts

Not applicable.

Puget Sound recovery

Not applicable to OSPI.

Other supporting materials

Not applicable.

Information technology (IT)

Information Technology

Does this DP include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

☒ No

☐ Yes

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