

## First Year in U.S. Multilingual Learners

All First Year in U.S. students must take mathematics and science assessments, *except students identified as NEP/LEP who enrolled in a U.S. school for the first time after the October 1 Count and have experienced limited or interrupted formal education. These students are in extenuating circumstances and may not be able to test validly.*

The below information only applies to the ELA assessment.

Use the following guidance to determine if students who are Multilingual Learners, who enrolled in a United States (U.S.) school for the first time on or after April 10, 2023 (first year in the U.S.), will participate in CMAS ELA or CSLA, or if they are exempt from language arts testing this year.

- *First Year in U.S.* students *included in the October 1 Count* who are Non-English Proficient (NEP), based on WIDA Screener and a local body of evidence, may be exempt from the **English** language arts assessment.
  - *Students with a primary or home language other than Spanish are exempt from ELA testing.*
  - *Students with a primary or home language of Spanish:*
    - *In grades 5 through 8 are exempt from ELA testing.*
    - *In grades 3 and 4:*
      - *Not receiving Spanish language arts instruction this year are exempt from ELA including CSLA testing.*
      - *Receiving Spanish language arts this year but did not consistently receive Spanish language arts instruction in the previous academic year in their prior country are exempt from ELA including CSLA testing.*
      - *Receiving Spanish language arts instruction this year and who consistently received Spanish language arts instruction in the previous academic year in their prior country are required to take CSLA.\**
  - A parent/guardian of a student who meets exemption guidelines may choose to have their child participate in ELA testing. Results for these students are included in accountability and growth calculations for the following year.
- *First Year in U.S.* students *included in the October 1 Count* who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), based on WIDA Screener and a local body of evidence, must take the state language arts assessment that best matches their instruction: CMAS ELA, CSLA (if eligible), or CoAlt (if eligible).
- *First Year in U.S. students enrolled for the first time after the October 1 Count who are Non-English Proficient (NEP) or Limited English Proficient (LEP), based on WIDA Screener and a local body of evidence, are exempt from the **English** language arts assessment.*

When registering students in PANext, districts indicate ELA testing exemption for eligible students by completing the field *Date First Enrolled in U.S. School* (the first date on which the student enrolled in a U.S. public school) and code the ELA assessment as *Not Tested Reason 02*, if applicable.

*\*Clarified language as of January 2024.*

*\*\*Clarified language as of February 2024.*