

TOOL 6: EXITING ENGLISH LEARNERS FROM ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

An EL student should be exited from an EL program when s/he scores sufficiently high on the statewide assessment adopted by the state in accordance with ESSA. Schools no longer independently determine when an EL has performed well enough to exit an EL program; instead, every school must use the exit criteria established by the state in which it operates.

Accordingly, an authorizer must ensure applicants and/or operators know and understand the standardized process for exiting EL students from EL programs. In addition, an authorizer must ensure an applicant/operator understands how to monitor an exited EL student, for how long, using what measures, and what to do if an exited EL student seems to be falling behind academically.

Specifically, an authorizer must determine whether the following criteria are met:

- An operator's exit criteria must align with, or explicitly adopt, the state's exit criteria.
- Exited students must be monitored for up to four years to ensure they are able to meaningfully participate in the school's educational program.
- An operator must have a policy/system in place to identify which exited EL students are no longer effectively participating in the school's curriculum and activities.
- An operator must have a policy/system in place to determine if/which additional services are needed.
- An operator must have a system in place to provide additional services as necessary, including a process to re-enter an EL student into an EL program if necessary (as measured by the statewide, standardized entry criteria adopted by the state in accordance with ESSA).