



Call to Action

Collect and report accurate information on your students!

“If we want grades to be accurate indicators of mastery, then we have to remove any barrier to students coming to know the material, as well as any barrier to their successful demonstrations of mastery. To not do either of these tasks makes any subsequent grades earned false; they are based on misinformation,



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Accurate Assessment of English Learners



How can you get accurate information about what your ELs know and can do?



What we know about assessing ELs

Concerns with Traditional Approaches:

- Interpreting ELs' large-scale test scores in the same way that non-ELs' scores are interpreted leads to inaccurate understandings of what ELs know and can do. (Fairbairn & Jones-Vo, 2016)
- A test in English is a test of English. (Menken, 2000)
- Translating tests is problematic. (Solano-Flores, Trumbull, & Nelson-Barber, 2002)
- Test language is a separate kind of language (Stevens, Butler, & Castellon-Wellington, 2000)

- Accommodations aren't always that effective! (Kopriva, Emich, Hipolito-Delgado, & Cameron, 2007)
- Test formats (such as multiple-choice) are not always familiar to ELs. (Fairbairn, 2007)
- Comparing ELs to non-ELs in norm-referenced testing is not helpful. (Fairbairn & Jones-Vo, 2016)

Promising Practices:

- The language of the test should match the language of instruction. (Solano-Flores, Trumbull, & Nelson-Barber, 2002)
- Simplified/plain English on tests helps ELs better show their learning. (Abedi, 2006)

What you can do:

Key Practices:

(Fairbairn, 2007)

These key practices will help you to facilitate test success for ELs:

With regard to language:

1. Use simple grammar and sentence structures.
2. Use active voice rather than passive.
3. Use common vocabulary whenever possible.
4. Include visual support.

With regard to test preparation:

1. Align testing with instructional practice.
2. Teach students how to negotiate different item/test formats.
3. Ensure that students know the "rules of the testing game."
4. Allow students to experience the testing conditions.
5. Teach specific test-taking strategies.

For further clarification about these strategies, see <https://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=12&n=11>