



Mapping a Path to Success for English Language Learners

With Pearson TELL (Test of English Language Learning)

By Paula Hidalgo, Ph. D., Senior Product Manager, Pearson

Fifty million students attend U.S. K-12 schools, and this school year more than 10 percent are English language learners (ELL) – a number that has doubled over the past 15 years. By 2025, it is anticipated that one out of every four students will be an English language learner. And while states such as Arizona, California, Texas, New York and Florida have historically served the majority of these students, in the last decade, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Indiana and Nevada have seen their ELL student populations grow by more than 200 percent.

At the same time that schools face the challenge of providing this growing special population with access to instruction that will help build English language skills, they must also ensure they are on track to meet today's more rigorous academic standards, such as the Common Core State Standards, the Next Generation Science Standards, the Florida Standards and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. In addition, the rollout of the next-generation assessments that accompany these standards requires a new approach to testing the English language proficiency of students to identify ELLs more accurately, diagnose their needs and monitor their progress. Adding to the critical need for a way to assess and monitor the progress of ELLs, the U.S. Department of Education requires that school districts break out and report their standardized test scores as well as meet targets set by their states for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives (AMAO).

In today's educational environment, ELL students represent an important – and growing – student population, and for these students to be prepared for success in school, college and career, it is crucial that schools have access to innovative solutions for meeting their unique needs.

Collaborating With Educators to Identify the Need, Create the Solution

In support of its ongoing commitment to collaborate with school leaders to help them put all students on the path to success in school, college and career, Pearson met with school district assessment and English language teaching specialists from seven geographically diverse school districts around the country to discuss the challenges they face when assessing ELLs. It quickly became apparent that there is a critical need for an accurate, easy-to-administer diagnostic and screening assessment that also provides tools for progress monitoring.

In addition, there is a need for a tool that predicts performance on summative assessments, such as the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) ACCESS for ELLs, and other state summative tests. Finally, although the need is for a solution to assess English language proficiency and not content knowledge, school leaders need an assessment that correlates to the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and other state standards.

Pearson TELL: A Tablet-Based Assessment System Designed to Meet English Language Learners' Unique Needs

To meet the existing and growing need for a powerful assessment system designed specifically for ELLs, Pearson developed Test of English Language Learning (TELL™). This tablet-based assessment system is built from the ground up to allow school districts to measure students' English language

proficiency at key points during the school year in a flexible, reliable, consistent way. TELL provides teachers with an accurate, reliable solution for screening and diagnosing students as well as monitoring their progress in a fun and engaging environment. Covering all four foundational language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – TELL assessments are aligned to today's rigorous standards.

Among TELL's numerous unique capabilities is the automated scoring of all student responses – written and spoken – by Pearson's proprietary automated scoring technologies, providing teachers with fast and accurate access to results to inform instruction. Over the past 15 years, Pearson's spoken and written language assessment technologies have scored millions of responses and are supported by research studies that demonstrate that they score as accurately as an expert human grader.

Accelerating Success for English Language Learners With Pearson TELL

With the current size and anticipated growth of the ELL population, school districts have much at stake when it comes to ensuring their success. Developed in response to the specific needs of educators working with ELL students, TELL leverages the power of technology to provide a cutting-edge solution for assessing progress in a fun and engaging tablet environment. TELL is built on the most widely used, reliable and accurate automated scoring technologies to give teachers quick access to the information they need to inform instruction, while providing district leaders with the data they need to meet state and federal reporting requirements.

With TELL, school districts around the country now have access to a powerful solution for mapping a path to success in school, college and career for all of their English language learners.

To explore TELL visit PearsonAssessments.com/TELL.

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