



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 20, 2024

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Assessment, School Improvement, and Systems Support 

**SUBJECT:** Announcing the Home Language Survey Update for 2025-26

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), through the support of Michigan's English Learner Advisory Committee, has completed an extensive review and update of the Home Language Survey (HLS), which included a research study involving parent focus groups in multiple languages. The HLS is used by all Michigan schools to identify students for screening for English learner (EL) services. Under Michigan's [Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act](#) and federal laws including [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) and the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), state education agencies and school districts have "legal obligations to ensure that EL students can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs and services" ([Dear Colleague Letter 2015](#)). ESSA requires that students be identified within 30 days of school enrollment for EL services through statewide standardized EL entrance and exit procedures ([ESEA Section 3113\(b\)\(2\)](#)). Schools use Michigan's HLS as the first step in these standardized procedures.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide local education agencies (LEAs) with information related to the implementation of the revised HLS.

An HLS is a questionnaire that schools use as an initial step in the identification of students for English learner services. An HLS is used in all 50 states. Schools ask families to complete the HLS during the initial student enrollment process. After administering the HLS, school personnel determine if the next step in the identification process for EL services should occur. Returning students who previously completed an HLS during initial enrollment to a Michigan district will not be asked to complete the revised HLS. In Michigan, this process is standardized as required under ESSA, and detailed guidance is provided by MDE in the [Entrance and Exit Protocol \(EEP\)](#).

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Michigan's Revised Home Language Survey is provided below. LEAs must use the revised HLS as written.

### **Michigan's Revised Home Language Survey**

Michigan welcomes families of all language backgrounds. Speaking more than one language is a valuable asset!

Please answer the two questions below. If your response to either question is a language other than English, the school district will give an assessment to see if your student may benefit from English language support.

What language is used most at home?

What language is used most by the student?

### **Implementation Timeline**

July 15, 2024:

- The Office of Educational Supports' [English Learners website](#) will be updated to include translated versions of the revised HLS and implementation guidance.

School Year 2024-25:

- LEAs may elect to pilot implementation of the revised HLS during this year by emailing their intent to [mde-el@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-el@michigan.gov). LEAs that pilot the HLS will be asked to complete a survey regarding implementation.
- MDE, in collaboration with the Center for Education Performance and Information (CEPI), will work with local student information system vendors in preparation for 2025-26 implementation.

School Year 2025-26:

- All LEAs must implement the revised HLS during the enrollment process for new students. Returning students who previously completed the HLS during initial enrollment to a Michigan district will not be asked to complete the revised HLS.

Questions may be directed to Kelly Alvarez, English learner consultant, Special Populations Unit, at [mde-el@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-el@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments