

District:

School:

In developing an IEP for a student with limited English proficiency, the IEP Team must consider the student's level of ELP, this includes both second language conversational skills as well as academic language proficiency. Therefore, the IEP Team must consider the student's level of ELP in listening, speaking, reading and writing, to support and strengthen implementation of the IEP goals. The IEP Team may find it helpful to ask the following framing questions:

1. Has the dominant language in the home been considered?
2. Has the child's primary language of communication been considered?
3. Have the cultural values and beliefs of the parents been considered in planning for the child's education?
4. Does the instructional plan incorporate a variety of instructional strategies?
5. Is there a member of the IEP Team who has expertise regarding the student and understands how language develops as well as strategies that can be used when educating a student with English as a second language?
6. Does the IEP Team have access to assessment data that is accurate and unbiased?
7. Does the assessment information use a variety of methods and environments?
8. Does the "present levels" statement in the IEP address both how the student uses his or her native language and how the student uses English?
9. Do progress monitoring activities measure progress toward the mastery of English?
10. Do the goals delineate in which language they will be addressed and who will be responsible for measuring the outcomes?
11. Is there collaboration between general and special education as well as English as a Second Language and bilingual education if appropriate?
12. Is an interpreter for the parents and the student present at the IEP meeting?
13. Are the IEP Team members trained in how to use an interpreter?
14. Is the evaluation process that will be used carefully defined in the native language and in English during the reviews and reevaluations?
15. Are the behaviors that are being measured carefully defined in the native language and in English during the reviews and reevaluations?
16. Is the setting that the language is being measured in defined?
17. Is the type of language that is being measured defined?

*This tool is taken from Meeting the Needs of English Learners with Disabilities: Resource Book by Jarice Butterfield, Ph. D., Santa Barbara County SELPA, on behalf of the SELPA Administrators of California Association. In the tool below, L1 refers to the student's native language and L2 refers to the student's second language (English). It is reprinted with permission of Dr. Butterfield.*