

Purpose of Home Language Survey

School Districts must identify within 10 days of enrollment, students who identify as having a primary language and/or at home speak a language other English in need of language assistance services. The home language survey (HLS) is a questionnaire given to parents or guardians that helps schools and Districts identify which students are potential English learners and who will require assessment of their English language proficiency (ELP) to determine whether they are eligible for language assistance services. Many States agencies either require a state developed HLS or provide a sample for Districts to use. To obtain accurate information, schools should reassure families that the HLS is used solely to offer appropriate educational services, not for determining legal status or for immigration purposes.

Families have a Right to Translation and Interpretation Services. Questions on the home language survey help families indicate a language preference so districts can provide an interpreter or translated documents, free of charge, when requested. **The State Home Language Survey is available in multiple languages on <http://www.k12.wa.us/MigrantBilingual/HomeLanguage.aspx>.**

Edmonds School District's Home Language Survey (HLS) is located on the 4th page of the district registration form. In accordance to the state guidelines, the home language survey for Edmonds School District includes the state required language questions to identify students as potential English learners. The two required questions include, #2 What language did your child learn first? **and** #3 What language does your child use the most at home? A response that includes a language other than English **or** English in addition to a language other English to question #2 AND/OR question #3 triggers English language proficiency screening testing. Responses to questions #1 or #4 with a language other than English could prompt further conversation with the family to ensure that questions #2 and #3 were clearly understood. The purpose of the English language proficiency screener is to determine eligibility for Language Development Support in the English Learning Program. Not all students that identify as having a language other than English qualify for English Development Support. Students that identify through the English language proficiency screener as being eligible for services in the English Learning Program (ELL) are provided by the district with supports to develop the language skills necessary for success in school.

For further information regarding the purpose and use of the HLS please visit the following website:
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/chap1.pdf>