

Assessments for Gifted and Additional Programs

Districts must make sure that any educational program offered to the student body uses eligibility criterion accessible to all students. The fact that some students have not developed English language skills to the same level as their peers does not mean that they are inherently less intelligent, creative, or deserving of a challenging and invigorating educational experience.

With respect to Gifted Programs in particular, those responsible for student selection must ensure that the criteria used to identify and select participants are not culturally or linguistically biased. To make decisions about students based on measures that assume English language proficiency is a violation of EL students' civil rights. If necessary, alternative routes to qualifying must be available to students from non-English language backgrounds. <http://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/gifted-education>