

# TEACHER FLUENCY FOR TITLE III, PART A-LEP PROGRAMS

## TEACHER FLUENCY REQUIREMENT

Under Section 3116(c) of Title III, Part A, a Title III-funded local education agency (LEA) must ensure that all teachers in a language instruction educational program for LEP students are fluent in English and any other language used for instruction, including oral and written fluency.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

- This requirement applies to all of the LEA’s teachers who provide instruction in English **AND** another language (i.e., bilingual instruction), regardless of whether or not those teachers are paid with Title III, Part A funds.
- It is up to the LEA to determine what methods are sufficient for verifying teacher fluency.
- Methods may consist of either formal assessments OR informal means that serve as evidence of teacher fluency.

## EXAMPLES

The information presented below is provided solely as a helpful resource and should not be regarded as a final or complete list of acceptable methods for verifying teacher fluency under Title III, Part A.

EXAMPLES OF METHODS TO CONSIDER FOR VERIFYING TEACHER FLUENCY FOR TITLE III, PART A			
ENGLISH		OTHER LANGUAGE(S) Used for Instruction	
Oral Fluency	Written Fluency	Oral Fluency	Written Fluency
<u>Formal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adult assessment of oral proficiency in the English language</li> <li>▪ Third-party assessment (conducted by an entity outside the LEA)</li> <li>▪ TOEFL*, IELTS* or other assessment teacher may have taken IF attended university as international student</li> </ul> <u>Informal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Job interviews</li> <li>▪ Classroom walk-through observations, etc.</li> </ul>	<u>Formal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adult assessment of writing proficiency in the English language</li> <li>▪ Third-party assessment (conducted by an entity outside the LEA)</li> <li>▪ TOEFL*, IELTS* or other assessment teacher may have taken IF attended university as international student</li> </ul> <u>Informal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Written portion of teacher job application</li> <li>▪ Samples of written correspondence or other writing, etc.</li> </ul>	<u>Formal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Texas bilingual teacher certification**</li> <li>▪ Adult assessment of oral proficiency in the target language</li> <li>▪ Third-party assessment (conducted by an entity outside the LEA)</li> </ul> <u>Informal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Job interviews</li> <li>▪ Classroom walk-through observations</li> <li>▪ Parent-teacher conference observations, etc.</li> </ul>	<u>Formal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Texas bilingual teacher certification in Spanish obtained 2009-2010 or after**</li> <li>▪ Adult assessment of writing proficiency in the target language</li> <li>▪ Third-party assessment (conducted by an entity outside the LEA)</li> </ul> <u>Informal Methods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Writing samples</li> <li>▪ Samples of letters or correspondence the teacher has translated (for class/school newsletter, parent letter, etc.)</li> </ul>

\* The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are examples of tests typically used to assess English language proficiency of international students attending university programs.  
 \*\*Texas bilingual teacher certifications before 2009-2010 included the Texas Oral Proficiency Test (TOPT), which assessed only oral proficiency in certain target languages; beginning in 2009-2010 Texas bilingual teacher certifications in Spanish now include the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT), which assesses all four domains of language including writing.

Based on current Title III guidance and Texas teacher certification requirements already in place, the Title III teacher fluency requirement will entail a method (determined by the LEA) for ensuring oral and written fluency of only those teachers who fall into the smallest subset represented below.

