

2009 CELLA Communiqué #3

What is **Title III** of NCLB?

The “No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act” became law when President Bush signed the Act in January, 2002. The Act focuses on accountability and results aimed at raising academic achievement for all students and improving the performance of poorly performing schools.

Title III of the Act is specific to language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students, federal policy outlined by NCLB requires each state to identify and be accountable for the instruction and performance of English language learners (ELLs) on both measures of English-language acquisition and academic subjects. The state is required to establish statewide English proficiency standards and assess each ELL with a statewide English proficiency assessment that reflects these standards.

In addition, the state is required by law to identify local school districts that do not meet achievement targets for students classified as ELLs.

What are **AMAOs**?

Accountability requirements are called **Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives** (AMAOs). Annual targets must be set for each objective by the state and are required to report on the achievement of three objectives:

- (1) Progress towards acquiring English language - number and percent of ELLs making progress based on CELLA results
- (2) Increases in attaining proficiency - number and percent attaining English-language proficiency based on CELLA results
- (3) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in academic reading and mathematics by the English language learners subgroup based on FCAT results

Why Use **CELLA**?

- Developed by a group of nationally recognized English language assessment development experts at ETS in conjunction with Accountability Works.
- Participation from a consortium of states; **Florida was the anchor state.**
- CELLA content benchmarks are **aligned to Florida’s** English Language Proficiency standards.
- **Florida educators participated** in the reviews and validation of the test items.
- **Field tested in Florida**; the only Title III assessment developed with the assistance and input from Florida educators and administrators.
- Prior to CELLA, a variety of different tests were used; the state was unable to combine the test results, set achievement targets, or evaluate the progress school districts were making for Title III of NCLB.

CELLA is a four skill language proficiency assessment that provides evidence of program accountability, in accordance with Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act. CELLA provides data for charting student progress; information about the language proficiency of students; and diagnostic information about students' strength and weakness in English.