California
Community
Colleges

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Academic Senate Presidents
Articulation Officers
Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness Professionals

FROM: James Todd, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

RE: Required Action:
AB 705 Validation of Credit English as a Second Language (ESL) Course Sequences

As the California Community Colleges continue to fulfill _Vision 2030_ and implement Assembly Bill 705/1705 (AB 705/1705), this memorandum provides direction on the validation process for placement and enrollment practices for credit ESL course sequences leading to transfer-level English (described in Education Code §78213, subsection (c)(5).

This guidance memorandum addresses:

- A description of the certification and validation process for placement and enrollment into credit ESL pathways.

- **Required action** to submit an A_B 705 Validation of Practices for Credit ESL Courses_ certification.

Background

Under the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 5, §55522.5 English as a Second Language Placement and Assessment, ESL students with a goal of transfer to a four-year institution or an associate degree should enter and complete a transfer-level English composition course or an ESL course equivalent to transfer-level English composition within a three-year timeframe of declaring a transfer or degree-seeking goal. Students who have acquired a United States high school diploma or the equivalent should be placed according to §55522 (CCR §55522.5 (b)(2)).

As described in guidance memo ESS 22-400-009 (Dec. 2022), AB 1705 made only one clarification to ESL placement as described in AB 705. The AB 705 phrase "evidence-based multiple measures" is now "multiple evidence-based measures" in AB 1705. Education Code §78213, subd. (c)(5) states, "Community colleges shall use multiple evidence-based measures for placing students into English as a Second Language (ESL) coursework. For those students placed into credit ESL coursework, their placement should maximize the probability that they will complete degree and transfer requirements in English within three years."

New Transfer-Level Gateway ESL Dashboard

AB 705 (Irwin, 2022) requires the Chancellor's Office to publish an ESL dashboard disaggregated by college and subgroup. In addition, the Dashboard provides completion rates for transfer-level English, transfer-level English-equivalent ESL, and mathematics (or equivalent quantitative reasoning) courses, starting from students' first course enrollment in the discipline (whether at or below transfer level). The Chancellor's Office is pleased to release the Dashboard for credit ESL courses, as well as a credit ESL course level view.

Review of the Chancellor's Office Management Information System (COMIS) reveals the need for colleges to validate their local ESL data, so the dashboard correctly depicts colleges' ESL course sequences between 2015-16 and 2025-26 and accurately captures completion of transfer-level English or ESL equivalent by starting level. The Chancellor's Office will release the updated ESL dashboard with individual college-level data in early 2026.

Required Action: Certification of AB 705 Validation for Credit ESL Course Sequences

To adhere to the legislatively set reporting requirements, **all colleges must submit a Credit ESL Course Sequence Data Validation by Oct. 31, 2025**. The credit ESL course sequence validation and certification process provides colleges with the opportunity to submit local data, through the Credit ESL Course Sequence Data Validation Template. Colleges are requested to (1) review their English as a Second Language (ESL) course sequence leading to transfer-level English or ESL equivalent and (2) complete the ESL data validation template.

By Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, each college will receive an individualized email that contains the college-specific credit ESL data validation template as an attachment and a unique link to submit the credit ESL data validation and certification form to the Chancellor's Office.

Certification Resources

- AB 1705 Guidance Memo ESS 22-400-009 (Dec. 2022)
- AB 1705 Implementation Guide (March 2023)
- AB 1705 FAQ

Chancellor's Office Program Contacts

For questions or additional guidance on any of the information within this memo, please contact the Equitable Placement and Completion Team at AB1705@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor
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