

## Purpose of the Home Language Survey

The Home Language Survey (HLS) is given to all students enrolled in a public school in the State of Oklahoma. The intent and purpose of the Oklahoma HLS is to identify students who speak a language other than English at home. School districts are required to identify English Learners (EL) students in need of language assistance services. The HLS completed by parents helps schools identify students who may qualify for support to help develop the English language skills necessary for success in the classroom, and who may qualify for other services.

It is important for parents to answer the questions in the HLS as accurately as possible, so the school districts can offer appropriate educational services. School districts must assure parents that the HLS is not for determining legal status or for immigration purposes.

Once students are identified as potential ELs, they must be assessed with a valid and reliable assessment to determine if they qualify for EL services. The school district has a responsibility to inform parents and guardians that, even if the student is identified as an EL, they may decline EL services. However, if the student has been identified as EL, even though the parent declined the EL services, the student will still have to be assessed annually. [*Public Law 114-95, Section 1111(b)(2)(G) & 1111(b)(2)(F)*]