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# SC Education Oversight ASA Subcommittee Meeting

January 13, 2025

# Approval of ASA Subcommittee Minutes November 18, 2024

*Dr. Patty Tate*



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# Information Item:

# Multilingual Learners' Test Participation



*Dr. Matthew Lavery, EOC Deputy Director*



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# Multilingual Learners' Progress Indicator

- Required by **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)** as amended by **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**
  - School Report Cards for all schools must report:
    - . . . progress in achieving English language proficiency, as defined by the State and measured by the assessments described in subsection (b)(2)(G), within a State-determined timeline for all English learners. . .*
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# South Carolina Implementation

- Includes **Continuously Enrolled** MLs at the school
  - Enrolled **by Day 45** and stay at the same school, **without a break** in enrollment, to the **relevant test window**
- Measures **progress** towards acquiring **English Language Proficiency (ELP)** within **five years** based on initial screening

**Table 11**  
Annual On-Track English Proficiency Targets for MLs based on Initial Screener Level

Screener Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5+
1	1.9	2.9	3.8	4.1	4.4
2	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.1	4.4
3	3.3	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.4
4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4
Access-ALT	A1	A2	A3	P1	P1

**Table 12**  
Multilingual Learners' Progress Rating  
Point Conversions to Ratings

Rating	Rating Points
Excellent	8.00 – 10.00
Good	6.00 – 7.99
Average	4.00 – 5.99
Below Average	2.00 – 3.99
Unsatisfactory	0.00 – 1.99

- Rated on % of MLs making target or better:

# Notes About Current Implementation:

- Targets are set for ***5-years within the same District*** (targets do not carry from one district to another)
- Inclusion is currently set to ***Day 1*** of the test window:

**School:** All MLs who are enrolled at the school from the 45<sup>th</sup> day of the school year and on the first day of testing, with no break in enrollment are included in the denominator for the calculation of school indicators.

- MLs ***without a test*** count as showing ***no growth***:

Students included in the indicator who do not have an English language proficiency score for the current school year (*i.e.*, MLs required to take the English language proficiency test who were not assessed) cannot be included in the numerator when calculating the percent of students who meet or exceed English language proficiency expectations.

- The ELP testing window is both quite early and quite long: (Open for **7 weeks** in 2024 from **Jan 22** to **Mar 8**)
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# Potential Drawbacks of Current Methods

- ML Subgroup is among the most transient subgroups
  - Long, early test window could motivate delays in testing
  - Current implementation does not incentivize testing MLs who have not been continuously enrolled at the school
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# How big an issue is non-testing of MLs?

- In **2024**, only **about 2.5% of MLs** in the state were not tested
    - This is about **1471 MLs** out of **57,932** statewide
  - However, there *is* variance among testing rates at schools:
    - **65 Schools** that received the MLP Indicator tested **fewer than 95%** of the MLs enrolled for **at least two weeks** during the test window
      - **One of those schools** had received an **Excellent MLP Rating**
    - **70 Schools** that had **at least 20 MLs** enrolled for **at least 2 weeks** during the test window tested **< 95%** (*1057 MLs not tested*)
    - **7 of the 25 schools** with the **largest ML populations** tested **fewer than 95%** of MLs enrolled **at least two weeks** (*211 MLs not tested*)
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# Analyses of Testing Rates by Groups

MLP Rating	MLs Required to Test	ELP Participation Rate
Excellent	432	98.8%
Good	4,172	98.7%
Average	16,215	98.6%
Below Average	25,855	97.5%
Unsatisfactory	5,123	97.7%
Not Rated (Primary Schools)	4,455 1,595	96.7% 98.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>97.9%</b>

ML Population Size	MLs Required to Test	ELP Participation Rate
Very Large (200+)	12,796	97.2%
Large (100 - 199)	14,263	98.3%
Medium (50 - 99)	13,540	98.6%
Small (30 - 49)	7,473	97.9%
Very Small (20-29)	3,767	97.6%
Borderline (10 -19)	2,819	97.8%
Negligible (< 10)	3,189	96.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>97.9%</b>

Years in MLP	MLs Required to Test	ELP Participation Rate
1	17,202	96.2%
2	11,382	98.6%
3	7,253	98.7%
4	4,162	99.1%
5+	17,848	98.5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>97.9%</b>

Grade Level	MLs Required to Test	ELP Participation Rate
K	5,093	98.4%
1	5,447	98.2%
2	5,540	97.7%
3	5,361	98.2%
4	5,041	98.8%
5	4,112	98.2%
6	3,904	98.4%
7	4,191	98.6%
8	4,444	98.0%
9	4,806	96.7%
10	4,192	97.1%
11	3,170	97.2%
12	2,546	96.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>97.9%</b>

# Possible Solution

- Could separate calculation of Multilingual Learners' Progress indicator from calculation of ELP Participation Rate:
    - Continuously enrolled MLs with a test score (*taken anywhere*) are included in the school's indicator and ratings
    - MLs enrolled for at least 10 instructional days during the test window are included in participation rate calculation
  - Apply a score penalty if a school fails to test at least 95% of MLs enrolled for at least 2 weeks during test window
  - Similar to current practice for Academic Achievement
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# Information Item: Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) Parent Survey

*Dr. Jenny May, EOC Director of Qualitative Research  
and Stakeholder Engagement*



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# Agenda

- I. Reporting Requirements and Legislative Authority
- II. Background and Context
  - Timeline of Implementation
- III. Survey Development
- IV. Findings
- V. Questions

## Enabling Legislation Pursuant to Section 59-8-110(E):

The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) shall: (1) comply with all student privacy laws; (2) report on and publish associated learning gains and graduation rates to the public by means of a state website with data aggregated by grade level, gender, family income level, number of years participating in the program, and race and a report for any participating school if at least fifty-one percent of the total enrolled students in the private school participated in the ESTF program in the prior school year or if there are at least thirty participating students who have scores for tests administered. If the Education Oversight Committee determines that the thirty participating-student cell size may be reduced without disclosing the personally identifiable information of a participating student, the Education Oversight Committee may reduce the participating-student cell size, but the cell size may not be reduced to fewer than ten participating students; (3) evaluate and report the academic performance of scholarship students compared to similar public school populations; and (4) collaborate with the department to develop and administer an annual parental satisfaction survey for all parents of scholarship students on issues relevant to the ESTF program, to include effectiveness and length of the program participation. Results of this survey must be provided to the General Assembly by December thirty-first of each year.

## Parent Satisfaction Surveys

(4) collaborate with the department to develop and administer an annual parental satisfaction survey for all parents of scholarship students on issues relevant to the ESTF program, to include effectiveness and length of the program participation. Results of this survey must be provided to the General Assembly by December thirty-first of each year.

# Background:

- June 2023 Act 8, ESTF became effective
- Approved students can access \$6,000/school year to be spent on distributed on quarterly basis, upon leaving resident school district.
- Eligible students:
  - Residents of SC
  - Attend public school in 2023-24 school year or rising Kindergarten student in 2024-25 school year
  - Household income does not exceed 200% federal poverty rate



# Allowable Use of ESTF Funds:

- i. Education Service Provider Tuition and Fees\*
- ii. Textbook and Student Workbooks (K-12 in the subjects of Math, English, Science, Social Studies, or Foreign Language)
- iii. Reading books
- iv. Curriculum in the Following Subject Areas: Math, English, Science, Social Studies, or Foreign Language
- v. Instructional Materials/School Supplies
- vi. Tutoring
- vii. Computer Hardware (desktop, laptop etc)
- viii. Technological Devices (printers, apple pen, keyboard etc.)

# Allowable Use of ESTF Funds:

- x. Tuition and Fees for an Approved Nonpublic Online Education Service Provider or Course\*
- xi. National Norm-Referenced Examinations (AP, industry certification etc.)
- xii. Educational Therapies (ABA therapy, vision therapy, evaluation for therapy equipment)
- xiii. Services Provided by a Student's Non-Resident District (out-of-district fees, transportation, fees or costs associated with participation in extracurricular activities)

# Context:

- October 2023 lawsuit initiated questioning the constitutionality of using tax dollars to fund the program
- September 11, 2024 Supreme Court found a direct benefit to private industry using tax dollars for education service provider tuition and fees, or online courses and use of ESTF funds for this use was halted

No parent is expected to repay any funds that were spent prior to the court ruling and other expense categories remain eligible for purchase.

# TIMELINE

May 4, 2023 Gov. McMaster signs Act 8 into law effective

June 3, 2023

October 2023 SC NAACP, SCEA, and 6

public school parents initiate lawsuit to stike down the law

September 1, 2024 SCDE compared list of ESTF students with public school enrollment to avoid duplicate payments per law.

October 30, 2024 Second quarter payment released to those confirmed eligible

July 31, 2024 First quarter payment \$1,500/student released through ClassWallet for student use.

October 29, 2024 Satisfaction surveys administered to all parents representing 2,879 student accounts

January 15, 2025 again required to compare ESTF students with public school enrollment to avoid duplicate payments

January 15-March 15 2024 Applications open for 2024-25 school year using ClassWallet platform.

April 2024 2,879 applicants are approved for first quarter payments, and SCDE

September 11, 2024 SC Supreme Court issued an opinion finding portion of ESTF unconstitutional

October 15, 2024 SCDE confirms ESTF eligibility by checking public school enrollment. Approximately 1,000 student accounts suspended

November 15, 2024 Survey closed and 243 responses collected

# Survey Development Process

- Determined what other states do
  - Reached out to 28 states, 2 provided survey items
- SAG feedback on items used by other states
  - Recommendation to use Net Promoter Scale (NPS) in analysis
- Survey review by SAG of final items

# Survey Items:

1. How likely are you to recommend the ESTF program to others?
  - Please tell us why (text box)
  - Is there anything that would make your experience better? (text box)
2. How satisfied were you with the ESTF program during the 2024-25 school year?
  - Please tell us why (text box)
3. Was there anything that surprised you about the program as you participated?
4. How many children do you have participating in the program this year?
5. Where was your students enrolled in school last year/during the 2023-24 school year? (drop down)
6. How did you use your ESTF funds? (drop down of allowable use with description)
7. How satisfied are you with the purchases/services paid for by the ESTF?

# Survey Items:

8. Do you see an improvement in your student's academic achievement that you believe is the result of ESTF funded activities?
9. Have you or your child experienced a disruption in educational services funded by ESTF this year?
10. Outbridge is a company that was hired to help parents participating in the ESTF to access and use funds. Have you used Outbridge support?
  - a. If yes then: How important was Outbridge support in accessing funds or understanding ESTF?
  - b. How likely would you be to recommend Outbridge support to another family participating in the ESTF program?
11. What else should we know about your experience with the ESTF program? (text box)

# Net Promoter Scale

**N**et  
**P**romoter  
**S**core



# NPS

- Categories
  - Promoter= score of 9-10 “enthusiastically happy”
  - Passives= score of 7-8 “satisfied”
  - Detractors= 0-6 “unhappy”
- What’s a good NPS score?
  - 0 is “Good”
  - Above 20 “Favorable”
  - Above 50 “Excellent”
  - Above 80 “World Class”

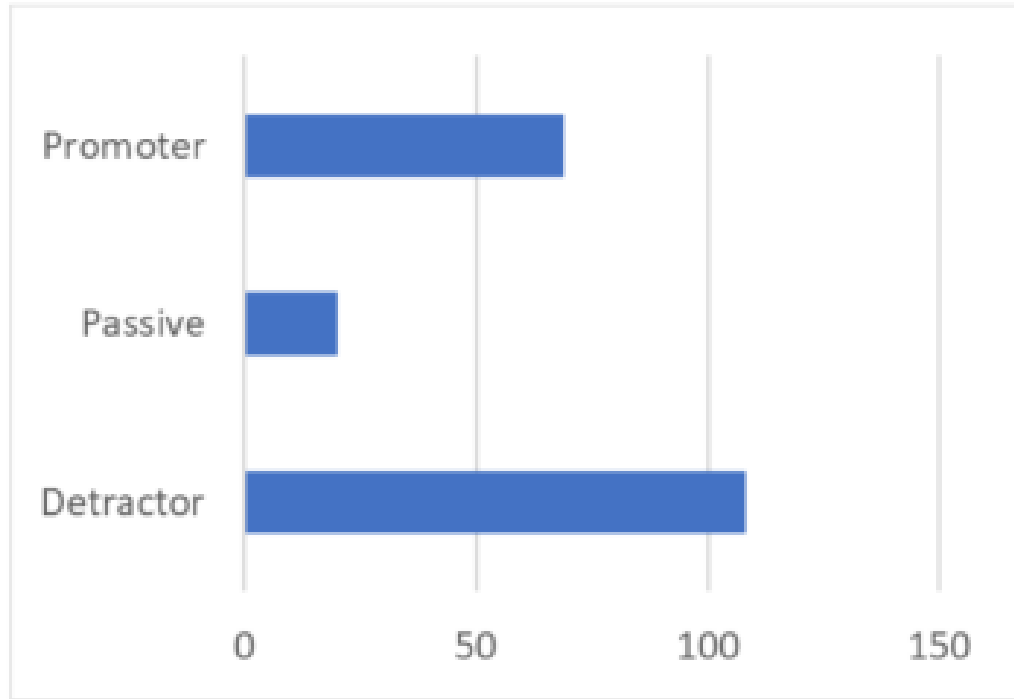
# Respondents & Findings:

- 243 Respondents, or a response rate of 8.4% which is acceptable
- 37% of respondents experienced a disruption in educational services with an additional 25% “might”.
- Previous educational environment:

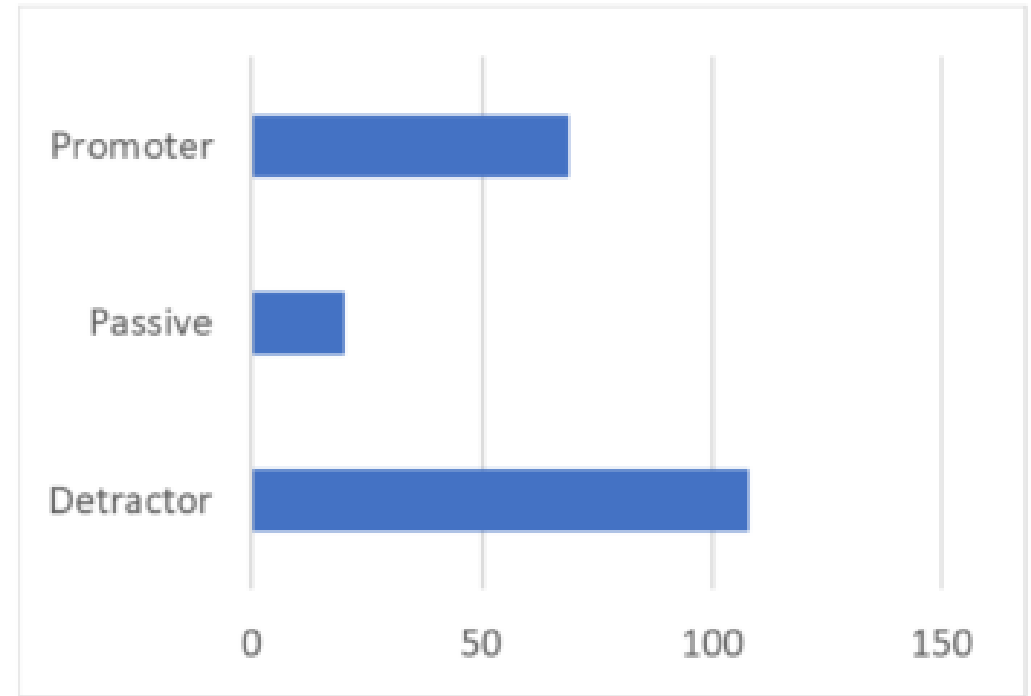
School Environment	Homeschool	School in a Different State	Public Charter School	Public School (includes magnet programs)	Virtual School (online program through district or other program)	Other
Number of Respondents Moving From that School Environment	6 (3%)	1 (0.4%)	18 (8%)	110 (46%)	5 (2%)	46 (19%)

# Overall Satisfaction:

Likelihood to Recommend ESTF NPS -.92



Overall Satisfaction with ESTF NPS -20



# Findings related to Supreme Court Decision:

“My children have thrived at the school we chose, expecting the ESTF to help fund, but I’m not sure they can continue in the future if funds will no longer be available for private school. I will not send them back to public school and I can’t afford full private education.”

“I’m a single parent to an autistic child and this scholarship afforded my daughter the opportunity to attend a private school where she benefits from the smaller class size and individual support. Since the revoking of using funds for private school I have had to make significant changes in our life to continue my daughter’s education. “

“I have had to contact my parents and ask them for assistance in paying for my child’s education. They have helped me with tuition for last month and will continue. My father is putting off his retirement to continue to help fund my child’s education.”

# Eligibility:

“Well, my fund got stopped because my daughter goes to the assigned school where she supposed to. I didn’t know she not supposed to, if I would’ve known I wouldn’t even apply for this. I wanted to use it for her tutoring, but my fund got stopped before I could arrange the payments with the tutors. So it’s absolutely pointless at this point for us.”

“My children would have to leave the school district they had been in for years!”

“My daughter was awarded a scholarship and hasn’t been able to use the funds. We were told she will not receive the funds because she goes to USC. We did not know the funds were for k-12 and it did not specify on the application. I’ve emailed and called but no one responds.”

# Communication:

- "I'm not satisfied for the following reasons:
  1. No communication about potential loss of funds.
  2. Unclear communication from Class wallet employees after Supreme Court Ruling (said funds could still be used for this school year but later said they could only be used for books and supplies, which also got denied when payment request was submitted).
  3. It took two weeks to receive a denial and after inquiring about escalation, I found out supplies could not be covered because it was going to a private school.
  4. When I asked if there was a number to call the program director or office that oversees the ESTF program, I was told there was no email or number to directly ask them about these funds and their uses."

# Recommendations:

- Prioritize communication of program eligibility and participation requirements in multiple and repeated ways
- Confirm eligibility before funds are released on July 31<sup>st</sup> for the first quarter payment.

# Marketplace Satisfaction:

Use of Funds:	Net Promoter Score by Use of Funds	Percent of Parents who Reported Improvement in Student Achievement as a Result of ESTF by Use
Textbooks and Workbooks	75	83%
Reading Books	78	89%
Curriculum	83	83%
Instructional Materials	77	68%
Tutoring	56	89%
Computer Hardware	100	86%
Technological Devices	50	25%
Services Provided by a Student's Non-Resident District	-100	0%
Education Service Provider Tuition and Fees*	41	65%
Tuition and Fees for Approved Non-public Online Education Service Providers*	77	77%



# Satisfaction with Outbridge:

- 70% of respondents did not use Outbridge and 15% didn't know if they did
- Overall NPS of 24 which is favorable

# Promoters:

- I have seen a light and confidence in my daughter that is new and refreshing. School has become fun for her because she has had the opportunity to get one on one tutoring with this scholarship and for that I am well pleased.
- Because it helped me with school supplies, and it was very straightforward to use.
- ESTF has been so helpful and caring towards our family.
- Easy process. Providing opportunities we might not have had otherwise.
- The financial help is appreciated greatly whenever I am a one income household with three children.

# Sharing Findings for Program Improvement:

- SCDE has all open response comments with identifying details obscured for privacy purposes when necessary
- Outbridge has all NPS and open response comments specific to Outbridge.

# Questions?



Thank you!

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# Adjournment



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