
Canadian Language Benchmark Levels and Refugee Assistance Program Clients– Relevance to Adult Learning Centres

Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Levels

As required by section 8 of *The Adult Learning Centres – General Regulation*, each learner completes an enrollment form before being registered as a learner in an adult learning centre (ALC).

Learners have the right to be enrolled in courses in which they have a reasonable opportunity to succeed. All prospective ALC learners whose primary language is not English, or whose previous education was in another language, need to demonstrate a command of English sufficient to meet the demands of high school level instruction, discussion, reading, and written assignments.

ALC enrollment forms should allow for prospective learners to provide, where relevant to do so, information on CLB levels.

The Adult Language Training (ALT) Branch of Immigration and Labour provides CLB assessments to newcomers to Canada for placement into Adult EAL (English as an Additional Language) programs. The CLB describes what people can do in English in the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. (For more information on the Canadian Language Benchmarks, see www.language.ca.)

CLB assessment results (from a formal assessment or indicated on a progress report from an Adult EAL program) can guide the ALC in forming a general picture of the language abilities of EAL learners interested in attending an ALC.

ALCs' current assessment tools can help provide additional information on an EAL learner's readiness for ALC programming; however, to strengthen ALCs' intake procedures, a *CLB7 Screener: A Canadian Language Benchmarks-referenced Assessment Tool for use in Adult Learning Centres* is available upon request from the Adult Learning and Literacy Branch. Please note that the CLB7 Screener has been designed specifically for the assessment of prospective ALC learners. People in need of an official CLB result must be referred to the Adult Language Training Branch.

It is strongly recommended that a level of Benchmark 7 in all four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing be used as the minimum entrance requirement to high school level (grades 9 – 12) programming at an ALC.

Of course, EAL learners may have compensatory attributes that can be taken into consideration where their CLB levels are somewhat lower than recommended. A thorough intake process will identify these types of EAL learners; registration should proceed only in accordance with the program's ability to meet these learners' particular needs.

In discussing a prospective learner's goals and assessing his or her English language skills, ALC staff may determine that a referral to another service agency is in the learner's best interest. For help in making appropriate referrals, please contact the Adult Language Training Branch (Manitoba Labour and Immigration) at 945-6300, or visit their website at www.immigratemanitoba.com.

As a reminder, "Adult EAL programming" is not eligible for Adult Learning and Literacy funding.

Information about CLB Assessments

- In Winnipeg, CLB assessments are administered at the ALT Branch, 5th floor 213 Notre Dame Ave. In Brandon, CLB assessments are administered by Westman ESL and Settlement Services (WESLS). In Winkler, CLB assessments are administered by Pembina Valley Language/Education for Adults (PVLEA) and in Steinbach, CLB assessments are administered by South Eastman English and Literacy Services (SEELS).
- Assessments are by appointment only. Call 945-6300 in Winnipeg for an appointment.
- The CLB assessment is a service offered **free** to immigrants who are planning to attend an Adult EAL program.
- Appointment wait times vary. Priority is given to new arrivals. Most immigrants in Winnipeg will wait approximately 3-4 weeks for an appointment.
- Learners who have a progress report within the last six months from their Adult EAL teacher or an assessment from a CLB Assessment and Referral Office will not be re-assessed.
- The Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT) is a secure instrument that can be administered only by certified CLB assessors. The ALT Branch has a licensing agreement with the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks to administer the test.

Resettlement Assistant Program (RAP) Clients

Resettlement assistance is provided to refugees admitted to Canada as government-assisted refugees. Prospective learners who are also RAP clients are not required to get “permission” to attend an ALC; however, they should be reminded to notify the Citizenship and Settlement Unit (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) that they plan to attend an ALC so their file remains up to date. Citizenship and Immigration Canada recognizes that attending an ALC may be a very good option for some RAP clients.

If you have any questions about this policy guide or would like to order the CLB7 Screener, please contact:

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