Public School Requirements
All Illinois public schools, including Charter schools, are required to identify and assess ALL students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) upon new enrollment in their district. ISBE advises school districts to follow these procedures for students whose primary language in the home is not English, or whose primary language is not English:

1) Pre-K and Kindergarten students take an English language proficiency test called the Kindergarten WAPT.

2) Students in grades 1-12 take an English language proficiency test called the W-APT Screener.
   
   a. Students who score below a composite 4.0 on the W-APT screener are considered Limited English Proficient (LEP) and are eligible for language support services.

   b. Students who achieve a composite score of 4.0 or above on the W-APT are considered “English language proficient.”

3) If a student is determined to be Limited English Proficient (LEP), the district informs parents in writing of the results of the assessment and the program placement recommendations, describing the services that are available to assist the student to become English language proficient.

4) To refuse language support services parents must provide the district with a signed, written statement that they are refusing services. Foster caregivers may not refuse LEP services unless it is determined by the child welfare caseworker and supervisor that it is in the child’s best interests. In addition, a signed letter should be obtained from the DCFS Guardianship Administrator before ELL services can be refused.

5) School districts must continue to assess English proficiency annually for each student identified as LEP, until the student tests as English language proficient (i.e., receives a score of 4.0 or above on W-APT).

Private School Requirements
Private schools have no requirement to screen and assess students with LEP, unless they are seeking or receiving LEP services through their Local Education Agency (LEA). Private schools who receive or are seeking LEP services through the Local Education Agency (LEA) must demonstrate that the English language proficiency of all students they report to the LEA is assessed annually and that each student for whom they are requesting services is LEP.