

6-12th grade English/Language Arts Mission Statement

The mission of Oswego Community Unit School District's English Department is to support the community in guiding students through their cognitive, intrapersonal and interpersonal growth. Students develop critical thinking and effective communication and literacy skills, while increasing cultural awareness. These skills will allow students to effectively apply knowledge to all disciplines and in a variety of life situations.

English Placement Criteria for Incoming Freshman

created 11/26/07 by Content Area Leader Team; implemented during the 07-08 academic year by 6-12 LA/English Team

In order to fulfill our mission, it is important that we consistently apply these criteria for placement recommendations. The steps below are designed to foster informed, data-driven recommendations.

STEP ONE: Analyze Placement Criteria

To make a placement recommendation for an incoming 9th grade student, 8th grade teachers use the following data to assist them in making informed placement recommendations:

	Gates score	Explore score	Current LA course grade
Placement in Reading Dynamics 1 & 2 and English 1 Essentials	40 th percentile or below	12 or below	"D" or "F"
Placement in English 1 Essentials (but <i>not</i> Reading Dynamics 1 & 2)	41-50 th percentile	13-15	"D" or "F"

- Students enrolled in Read 180, Strategic Reading, or Reading Dynamics go to Reading Dynamics 1 & 2 in order to continue receiving the needed reading support.

STEP TWO: Consider MAP Reading Test Data

If the above data is conflicting or unclear, these RIT values (RIT: Rausch unit – reading level indicator - used to make placement changes at the JH level) may assist in making high school placement decisions. Additional pieces of data can be helpful in making data-driven decisions.

JH course placement →	Read 180 placement	Strategic Reading placement	Reading Dynamics placement	Regular Language Arts placement
Fall score	<211	212-217	218-220	221+
Winter score	<213	214-218	219-222	223+
Spring score	<214	215-220	221-223	224+

Other notes:

- Placement at the high school level is done based on the leveled courses: Essentials, regular, Honors, Accelerated Honors). Once in high school, students may change placement in these levels based on performance, teacher recommendation, their locally assessed reading score (Gates pre-test starting '09-10), and writing performance in the English Portfolio.
- Students *new* to the district in high school could be given the Gates test to determine the best placement English placement.