

## **GUIDELINES TO HELP DETERMINE THE NEED FOR A BILINGUAL REFERRAL**

### **A student should be referred for a Bilingual Evaluation if:**

1. Student is currently receiving ESL (TPI) or bilingual (TBE) services.
2. Student was exited from ESL or bilingual within the past year (possibly 2 years).
3. Results of oral language proficiency testing (in L1 and L2) show:
  - L1  $\geq$  English (L1 is stronger or at similar level).
  - L1 and English both very weak (neither is dominant).
4. If student is a preschooler, and main caregiver primarily uses language other than English.
5. If student has arrived in the US within last 2 - 3 years, and has not been exposed to an educational program using English.
6. Upon recommendation of NSSEO, school staff or parent request.

Caution: DO NOT always assume that low English proficiency (L2) implies, in of itself, the need for a bilingual evaluation. Occasionally, students' proficiency in their native language can be even lower than proficiency in English.