

PLACEMENT TESTING PROCEDURE, ESL II

After the class attendance had stabilized, on or around the third week, Friday mornings from 9-10 a.m. were set aside for individualized testing. The tests used were from the Boston International Institute and were called placement tests, of which there were three.

All students started with test I, and after successfully passing it (with a minimum score of 16 out of a possible 18), went on to tests II and III. A few students passed tests I and II on the first attempt, but most students needed to take each test several times before successfully passing them. Tests were taken on Friday, corrected by the teacher over the weekend, and passed back to the students on Monday with corrections to study and directions as to whether they should retake that test on the following Friday, or move on to the next level test.

Material tested at all three levels was grammatically and conversationally based, material that we were in the constantly on-going process of studying. Students completing all three levels of testing were given materials for the GED examinations to work on individually. With the exception of two students, all students showed progress on their test scores. They also received a great deal of personal satisfaction at watching themselves advance at their own rate, without peer competition