

Guidance for Language Use Survey (LUS) and Screening for Students who Speak English-based Creole Languages

Language Code for all English-based Creole Languages: cpe

Language Use Survey

English-based Creole Languages should be recorded as the home/primary language on the Language Use Survey (LUS). Speakers of English-based Creole Language should be screened for English Language proficiency.

English Language Proficiency (ELP) Screening

Students who identify an English-based Creole language on their LUS should be screened for ELP. While English has a strong influence on the language, there are multiple other significant linguistic influences which make creole languages significantly different from standard American English in both vocabulary, structure, and usage. These differences may influence the student's skills in working in Standard American Academic English.

What is an English-based Creole Language?

An English-based creole language is a creole language for which English was the lexifier, meaning that at the time of its formation, the vocabulary of English served as its basis. While English has a strong influence on the language, there are multiple other significant linguistic influences which make English-based creoles significantly different from standard American English in both vocabulary, structure and usage. There are at least 42 English-based creole languages spoken around the world.

Examples of English-based Creole Languages (not an exhaustive list):

Jamaican Patois (Jamaica)	Ghanaian Pidgin (Ghana)	Manglish (Malaysia)
Krio (Sierra Leone)	Cameroonian Pidgin (Cameroon)	Trinidadian Creole (Trinidad and Tobago)
Kreyol (Nigeria)	Singlish (Singapore)	Tok Pisin (Papua New Guinea)