

What's new in ACCESS for ELLs 2.0?

While still called ACCESS for ELLs, this new version is computer-based for grades 1-12, and is designed to improve many aspects of the test.

- Students in grades 1-3 will take most of the test on a computer, but will still take the Writing domain in a booklet. Students in grades 4-12 will type their answers.
- Students will listen to prompts and directions through headphones rather than their teacher reading them.
- Students will hear voices other than their teacher's, including those of other students near their age. This allows the test to better present situations similar to those in which students use their English language.
- Some of the students heard on the test will model what is expected of the student taking the test.
- The test can adapt a little bit to how well a student is doing, making sure that the questions are challenging enough, but not too challenging.

Where can I find sample test questions?

Sample test questions are available at <https://www.wida-ams.us/default.aspx>. Practice tests will also be available at this website in October 2015. These can be used by students to become familiar with the test format prior to testing. They also allow teachers and parents to understand what their students are expected to be able to do to demonstrate their English proficiency.



Information for Families



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What is ACCESS for ELLs?

ACCESS for ELLs is a secure annual assessment of the developing social and academic English language proficiency of English learners (ELs) in grades K through 12. This assessment allows educators, students, and families to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. ACCESS for ELLs is aligned with WIDA's English Language Development (ELD) Standards.

The tasks on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment replicate the kinds of communicative situations (and the language needed to be processed or produced within them) that is encountered in different school settings. Each assessment item and task targets at least one of the five WIDA ELD Standards:

- Social and Instructional Language
- Language of Language Arts
- Language of Mathematics
- Language of Science
- Language of Social Studies

ACCESS for ELLs is part of an assessment system that strategically uses multiple types of resources:

- **A screener** - The WIDA Screener measures the English language proficiency (ELP) of students who have recently arrived in the U.S. or in a particular district. It can help to determine whether or not a student is in need of English language instructional services, and if so, at what level.

- **A summative assessment** - ACCESS for ELLs is a standardized assessment which measures students' ELP at a single point in time every year. This annual assessment of ELP is a checkpoint to see how much a student has progressed from the previous year.
- **Interim assessments** – While not provided by DPI, schools may choose to purchase the WIDA MODEL assessment. This is similar to ACCESS for ELLs, but can be administered multiple times per year to inform instructional practices.
- **Foundations for formative assessments** – Dynamic language learning progressions form the basis of materials and trainings designed to help teachers develop formative assessment strategies. These strategies are informal check-ins done mid-lesson to determine if the lesson is working.

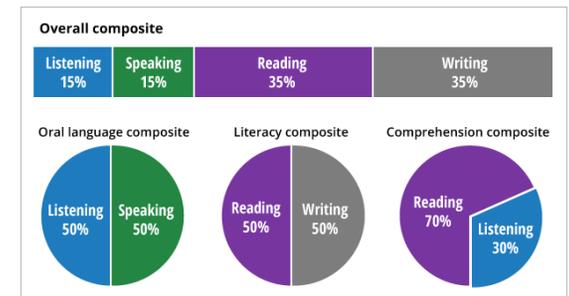
How are ACCESS for ELLs results used?

- Students use them to understand their current level of ELP along the developmental continuum.
- Teachers use them to enhance instruction and learning.
- Schools use them as one of multiple measures used to determine if a student has reached full English proficiency.
- School districts use them to evaluate the effectiveness of their ESL/bilingual programs and to meet federal requirements to monitor the progress of ELs toward English language proficiency.

What types of scores are provided?

Student data includes the following:

- Scale scores on a K-12 vertically aligned scale in the domains of Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking
- Grade level proficiencies from levels 1-6 in the WIDA ELD Standards
- Composite scores as diagrammed in the image below



What are the ELD Standards?

The WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards are the foundation for the ACCESS for ELLs assessment and all WIDA resources. Innovative and renowned, these standards have been adapted by TESOL as the national model and are used by thousands of educators to set curricular goals, plan differentiated lessons, and measure student language growth.

The Standards are available at <http://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx>

