

ACCESS FACT SHEET

The WIDA ACCESS for English Language Learners meets New Mexico's federal requirement to provide an annual assessment of academic English language proficiency. It is annually administered to current English learners in Grades K–12.



Who takes ACCESS for ELLs?

ACCESS for ELLs is administered to current English learners in Grades K–12. **This test should not be administered to students who have exited EL status.** Current English learners with disabilities are provided accommodations as designated in their special education Individual Education Programs or 504 plans. Students with the **most significant cognitive disabilities** participate in Alternate ACCESS.



What does the test measure?

ACCESS for ELLs measures a student's overall proficiency and their progress toward English proficiency in four domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. The test is based on [WIDA's English Language Development Standards for K–12](#).



When is the test given?

The test is given in the early spring of every school year. The assessment calendar is posted publicly [here](#).



How is the test administered?

- Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs is paper-based and administered individually.
- For Grades 1–3, the writing domain is pencil and paper for all students.
- For Grades 4–12, all domains are administered online with exceptions: Braille, large print, IEP/504 accommodation that can't be met on a computer.
- The test is not a timed test. Recommended time for establishing local schedules can be found in the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#).



What are the Proficiency Levels?

1 Entering	2 Emerging	3 Developing	4 Expanding	5 Bridging	6 Reaching
---------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------	---------------	---------------

Students must achieve an overall composite score **≥ 4.7 to exit EL status**. Any student who transfers to a New Mexico school from an out-of-state or BIE school that is a WIDA Consortium member, the ACCESS results can be obtained, and the student has a WIDA ACCESS Score of 4.7 or higher shall be recognized as having exited EL status, see [the LCD Serving English Learners Technical Assistance Manual](#) for more guidance.



Where can I access reports?

School personnel can access reports that are found on the secured WIDA site on the [WIDA AMS](#) portal. Schools are required to provide individual student reports to parents and guardians.

For more information on the WIDA ACCESS, please visit the [PED WIDA resources](#) page or [NM ACCESS for ELLs](#) site.