

Frequently Asked Questions

WIDA Access for ELLS

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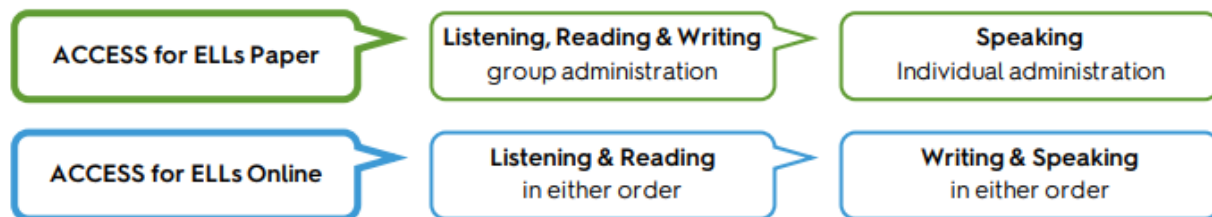
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General ACCESS Information

What is the testing order for domains?

The test order has some flexibility for the Online ACCESS test. Students must complete both Listening and Reading prior to beginning either Speaking or Writing. You can do Listening before or after speaking and writing before or after speaking but listening and reading both must be done before beginning speaking and writing.



Who Scores the ACCESS test?

The Online ACCESS test is scored centrally. TA's will administer the test (including the writing booklet for grades 1-3) and all domains will be scored by WIDA. There are some exceptions. Students in grades 1-12 who take a paper test will have their speaking domain scored locally.

Is the kindergarten ACCESS online?

No. The Kindergarten ACCESS test is a paper test. It is administered 1-to-1, and it is scored by the TA, similar to the Alt ACCESS test. That is the TA will mark item scores, and the booklet will be returned to DRC for calculating scale scores and domain levels and the like.

Can domains be given out of order?

The ACCESS for ELLs test must be administered in the order Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing. The online format of the test is semi-adaptive, meaning the test platform tracks student progress in the Listening and Reading tests and presents test items based on students' previous performance. When students finish the Listening and Reading tests, the test platform evaluates



their performance to assign them to the appropriate tier of the Speaking and Writing tests. Students are placed into one of three tiers for Speaking (Pre-A, A, or B/C) and one of two tiers for Writing (A or B/C). Students then complete all tasks in the non-adaptive Speaking and Writing domain tests.

If student performance on the listening and reading domains is highly predictive of their performance on speaking and writing domains, will the state explore possibly shortening the test for select students?

No. The WIDA consortium does not allow states to make independent determinations about the length of the test.

Can anyone working for a district (i.e., paraprofessionals) score the test as long as they complete the training?

The state guidance on who can administer tests does not separate administration and scoring. The guidance reads as follows:

Washington state tests must be administered by trained staff members of a school district (e.g., teachers, Educational Support Assistants, Educational Assistants, substitute teachers). It is recommended that assessments be administered by individuals with an existing state certification in education (e.g., teachers, school psychologists, principals, etc.). However, non-certificated staff (such as paraeducators) may administer assessments with appropriate training and under the general supervision of a certificated school district employee. A trained non-certified staff member may administer the assessments without a certified staff member in the testing location.

Student teachers, para-educators, and interns have a contractual relationship with the school district — even if they are not paid employees — and may assist in the administration of the assessments, including proctoring.

Volunteers may not administer or assist in the administration of any state tests, nor are they permitted to assist with handling secure test material. Volunteers may assist in the supervision of students who need a break or have completed testing and left the testing site.

Is there a time limit for TAs to go into WIDA AMS and enter their data after the assessment?

When it comes to ACCESS, any test that needs to be scored locally needs to be scored while they are one to one with the student in real time. There is no “after-the-fact” scoring.

Alternate ACCESS is one on one and must be scored with the student present.

Kindergarten ACCESS is one-on-one and must be scored with the student present.

Paper ACCESS Speaking is on-on-one and must be scored with the student present.

All online tests are scored by DRC. Listening, Reading and Writing of Paper ACCESS are scored by DRC.

Will the ACCESS score report be available in multiple languages?

Yes. The ACCESS score report is available in over 40 languages through DRC's WIDA AMS system.

Speaking Domain

Can we set up ACCESS to not play automatically when a student reaches an item?

Yes. Students with IEP or 504 plans can use the "manual audio control" accommodation on all domains except the reading domain, where audio controls are not necessary.

Can a student re-record their speaking response if they get interrupted?

Typically, a student cannot re-record their response to a speaking item. They can wait to wait after hearing the prompt, collect their thoughts, and then click record. If there is an interruption either when listening to the item or recording the response, there is no opportunity to replay without an accommodation and there is no re-record option.

Can a student listen to the item multiple times?

A student with the Replay Audio accommodation can listen to the audio a second time. Audio is not available more than twice.

WIDA AMS

Can we bulk upload accommodations into WIDA AMS?

Yes, there is a means to bulk upload demographics and accommodations.

The same process and file layout that you use as a state for the initial Pre-ID can be used by districts once the test setup window opens in January.

Starting on January 5th, Districts will be able to go in and see the students in WIDA AMS. District level users have the ability to export their entire student population under My Applications>Student Management>Student Exports.

Name	Code	Number	Updated	Select
ACCESS for ELLs	EWD004	596004	Oct 13, 2021	Select
WIDA Screener Assessment	EWD008	596008	Oct 13, 2020	Select
WIDA ACCESS for ELLs	EWD004	596004	Apr 13, 2020	Select
WIDA ACCESS for ELLs	EWD004	596004	May 2, 2019	Select
WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0	EWD704	596704	May 2, 2018	Select
WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0	EWD004	596004	May 1, 2017	Select
WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0	EWD004	596004	Aug 25, 2016	Select

Users will want to choose the EWD004 -596004 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, and it will export all the students in the district in the same [layout](#) and [sample file](#) as the Upload Multiple

Student file layout. This means they can take the export and add "Y" values to any accommodation or demographic that they need and then load that same file back into WIDA AMS under My Applications>Student Management>Manage Students>Multiple Upload Students and the student profiles should update.

As a caveat, if the District, School, First Name, Last Name, SSID, and Grade are the same from the export to the upload, any changes will update the already existing profile. If any one of those unique identifiers change, like school, that will be considered a new student in the system and another profile will be made rather than updating the profile that already exists.

Can only DACs add students to WIDA AMS?

OSPI is working to develop a way that we can upload students to WIDA AMS through a regular CEDARS pull. We do not yet have this worked out, but it may by the time testing begins. However, it will likely still be necessary for districts to upload some students to WIDA AMS. We encourage districts to keep this a small number of people to minimize errors and duplicated records in the system. It can be more than one person, though and DACs can assign this permission.

Training

Do test administrators need to take all of the modules listed on the ACCESS training page?

No. OSPI has developed guidance that is available on the [Annual ELP Assessment page](#) on the OSPI website.

Accommodations

I have a student whose pronunciation is limited due to a disability. With ELPA21 we used the familiar listener accommodation. Is that available with WIDA?

Students whose pronunciation is limited by a disability can take a paper version of the WIDA ACCESS. They would need to take the entire test on paper, and the speaking test would be scored locally.

Questions we are still working on:

What is the process if parents wish to waive the test?

What are the Pause Rules and how should Tas best work under them?

What if a student fails to complete portions of the test? Does it timeout or still publish a score or partially completed tests?