

Information on the ACCESS for ELLs



What is ACCESS for ELLs?

The ACCESS for ELLs (ACCESS) is an assessment that measures English language proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing as described in the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards. These standards have been adopted by Minnesota and address the language demands of the state's academic content standards.



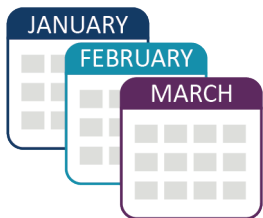
Who takes the ACCESS?

All English learners enrolled in grades K–12 in Minnesota public and charter schools take the ACCESS. Some students who have an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and meet specific eligibility requirements may take the Alternate ACCESS.



Why do students take the ACCESS?

The ACCESS gives students the opportunity to demonstrate the English language skills they have been learning and practicing in the classroom. Teachers can use the results to inform decisions about individualized language development and support and to determine continued eligibility for English learner services. Schools can use the results to help monitor their success in meeting the needs of multilingual learners.



When does the ACCESS happen?

The ACCESS is taken every year until the student is exited from their language instructional educational program. The test is administered late January through late March.



How do students take the ACCESS?

Most students will take the ACCESS online. Kindergarten students take the assessment individually with a teacher. Some students, based on their needs documented in their IEP or 504 plan, can take the assessment on paper.