



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 10, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

Route To: District Bilingual/ESL/ELS Leads, District Test Coordinators, District Special Education Administrators, ESEA Project Coordinators, District Technology Coordinators, School Business Administrators

From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Linda P. Eno, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

Requirements for ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs State Assessments

The enactment of the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) expanded accountability requirements to include an indicator measuring growth of English language learners (ELLs) toward English proficiency. To comply with federal regulations implementing ESSA¹, all school districts in New Jersey must administer the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 language proficiency assessment to all ELLs in grades K-12 or, as required, the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs in grades 1-12. Results from the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test administration will be used in the calculation of schools' and districts' performance on the Progress to English Language Proficiency (ELP) indicator in the school accountability system.

Who should take ACCESS 2.0?

- All students in grades K-12 currently identified as ELLs (including ELLs whose parents have refused services) in accordance with New Jersey's [ELL identification process](#) and who have an ELL Identification Date in NJ SMART.

Who should take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?

- Students in grades 1-2 who are identified as ELLs with significant cognitive disabilities as noted in their IEPs. The [Participation Criteria Decision Tree](#) provides criteria for administering the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.
- Students in grades 3-12 who are identified ELLs with significant cognitive disabilities and meet New Jersey's criteria for participation in the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment.

ACCESS 2.0 Administration

To help school districts prepare for the 2019-20 testing cycle, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has published the [ACCESS 2.0 Administration Dates](#). Be certain to review testing dates with appropriate staff to begin planning for ACCESS 2.0 administration. As part of the statewide assessment program, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and the Alternate Access for ELLs are provided to districts at no cost for the 2019-20 school year.

State Accountability and Reporting

The results of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will be used as part of the identification of schools in need of comprehensive or targeted support. To ensure accurate school accountability calculations, school districts must fill in *all* data fields in WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS). Optional fields are mandatory in New Jersey.

¹ *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* §1111(c)4(a)(III)(ii) and §1111(b)(2)(G)(i)(ii)

- State Assessment Accountable District: This data field *must be completed* for all students in the ‘District Defined Optional Data’ field in WIDA AMS in the following format: 2 Digit County Code + 4 Digit District Code (Example: 01 + 0110 = 010110);
- State Assessment Accountable School: This data field *must* be completed for all students in the ‘State Defined Optional Data’ field in WIDA AMS in the following format: 3 Digit School Code (Example: 010); and
- District Entry Date: This data field *must* be completed for all students in the ‘Additional field to be used by state’ field in AMS in the following format: YYYYMMDD.

These fields must be correctly reported for student records populated from the State Assessment Registration Submission in NJSMART as well as student records entered directly into WIDA AMS.

Importance of Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window

A pre-reporting data validation window is available to school districts from May 4, 2020 through May 14, 2020. ACCESS Test Coordinators and other related staff must ensure that all required fields have been corrected in WIDA AMS during this window. Although there is a post-reporting data validation period available, *data cannot be corrected for accountability purposes after May 14, 2020.*

New Testing Material Overage Procedures

ACCESS for ELLs overage will increase from 10% to 15% for each district. Half of this overage (7.5%) will be shipped to the district central office and half (7.5%) will go to school sites within the district. Overages can now be shared among schools in a district. Before ordering additional testing materials, school districts should ensure all current inventories of overages have been exhausted across the school district and consolidate overage orders to reduce shipping and packing costs for the consortium.

Technical Assistance

The NJDOE encourages districts to visit its webpage for [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0](#) for additional information and assistance with testing. Other useful resources include [Alternate Access for ELLs and Frequently Asked Questions](#). For questions regarding ACCESS testing and accounts, please visit the WIDA information on [preparing for test administration page](#) or the [WIDA Contact](#) page.

Please ensure that the areas addressed in this broadcast are communicated to district staff responsible for the administration of ACCESS for ELLs.

c: Members, State Board of Education
 Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
 NJDOE Staff
 Statewide Parent Advocacy Directors
 Garden State Coalition of Schools
 NJ LEE Group