



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 27, 2020  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: District Bilingual/ESL/ELS Leads, District Test Coordinators  
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services  
Linda P. Eno, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Academics and Performance

### **ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0 Update**

With gratitude and in partnership, we acknowledge the adjustments you are making to support English language learners (ELLs). As the State navigates through these unprecedented times, we will continue to provide updated information and resources for educators, families, and students. The purpose of this memo is to provide updates on the use of ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0 scores, the return of testing materials, and score reporting.

#### **Assessment Waiver Granted by the United States Department of Education (USDE)**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) applied for and was granted approval for the Assessments, Accountability and School Identification, and Reporting Requirements waiver. Therefore, New Jersey is not required to administer a statewide assessment for federal accountability purposes for the 2019-20 school year. This waiver also applies to the administration of the ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0 assessments. For more information, please refer to the March 24, 2020 broadcast announcement: [New Jersey Cancels Statewide Student Assessments](#).

#### **ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0 Return of Test Materials**

Districts should return materials to the test materials vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), by **August 3, 2020**. Districts unable to return paper test materials (incomplete, partially completed, and/or completed) by that date should email [ELL@doe.nj.gov](mailto:ELL@doe.nj.gov). For a complete list of the materials that should and should not be returned, please log into your WIDA account to review the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#) (Page 70).

#### **ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0 Completed or Partially Completed Tests**

The NJDOE recognizes that scores from completed and partially completed ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0 assessments may be useful for instructional planning in combination with other locally collected assessment data. For this reason, although scores will not be used for accountability, for students who completed two or more ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0 online or paper test domains, districts will receive an individual student report with a score for each completed domain. Reports will be available online in WIDA AMS on **September 14, 2020**. Test scores received can be used for placement and instructional purposes only.

#### **Exiting ELLs**

For those students who completed all four domains on the ACCESS 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS 2.0, districts will receive an individual student report with a composite score for the 2020 Spring administration. Composite scores may be used for placement and instructional purposes, and/or exiting students from services and status as an ELL.

An exit date should be entered in NJSMART in the ELLExitDate field consistent with the definition of the data element in the [SID Handbook](#), p. 65.

**Contact information**

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact NJDOE's Office of Supplemental Educational Programs via email at [ELL@doe.nj.gov](mailto:ELL@doe.nj.gov).

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