

WIDA Alternate ACCESS Guidance

Kindergarten to Grade 3

Purpose

To help districts identify English learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot meaningfully participate in the standard WIDA ACCESS assessment, even with accommodations.

Key Points

- Do not evaluate every EL with an IEP for Alternate ACCESS eligibility.
- Students who take DLM-AA may not qualify for Alternate ACCESS.
- Students who used Alternate ACCESS previously are not required to continue.
- If a student earns an Overall Composite PL5, consider transitioning to standard WIDA ACCESS the following year.
- Keep evidence in the student's IEP and temporary file, including this checklist.
- Record observations during administration to inform future decisions.
- The IEP team must re-evaluate eligibility annually, using recent results and observations.
- Mixing domains (standard ACCESS for some, Alternate ACCESS for others) is not allowed.
- Use of Alternate ACCESS must be specified in the IEP.

Resources

- [DLM-AA Participation Guidelines](#)
- [Guidance on Most Significant Cognitive Disability](#)

Participation Flowchart: Kindergarten to Grade 3

Follow the decision path to determine eligibility for Alternate ACCESS

