

## Guidance for Multilingual Learners (MLs) not Eligible for Alternate ACCESS

This supplemental crosswalk shows which accessibility and accommodations features are allowable on the WIDA ACCESS assessments. With the recent change to COMAR 13A.05.01.08, MLs in Kindergarten through Grade 2 cannot take Alternate ACCESS as they are not eligible for participation in the AA-AAAS until their annual IEP review meeting immediately preceding the student's third-grade year.

As such, the provided crosswalk shows universal tools, administration considerations, and allowable accommodations that can be provided for MLs ineligible for Alternate ACCESS to not preclude them from demonstrating their English language proficiency.

**NOTE: Accommodations for WIDA ACCESS are available ONLY for MLs with disabilities when they are listed in an approved IEP and 504 Plan. The following accessibility features on Maryland state content assessments are accommodations on WIDA ACCESS that are allowed ONLY for MLs with disabilities.**

- 1r: Text-to-Speech for the Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Assessments
- 1s: Human Reader or Human Signer for the Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Assessments
- 1t: Writing Tools
- 2c: Separate or Alternate Location
- **4f: Speech-to-Text (New for 2027)**
- **4a: Assistive Technology (New for 2027)**
- 4g: Human Scribe Response

| Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, & Accommodations Manual 2026-2027 | WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual 2026-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Listening  | Reading    | Writing    | Speaking   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1a: Answer Masking                                                    | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |            |            |            |
| 1b: Audio Amplification                                               | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Audio aids include amplification devices, noise buffers, and white noise machines. These tools can be provided by the school or by the student.                                                                                                                                                           | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1c: Bookmark                                                          | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |            |            |            |
| 1d: Color Contrast                                                    | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Transparent color overlays or adjust color settings in the test platform to alter how test content in a test booklet or on a screen is seen. A variety of defined color adjustment options are built into the test platform (black on white, black on cream, dark gray on light gray, and brown on pink). | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1e: Blank Scratch Paper                                               | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Students can make notes, organize ideas, or sketch diagrams as they test. This content is never scored. Scratch paper can be any blank writing surface, including plain or colored paper, grid paper, ruled paper, braille paper, raised-line paper, or even a dry-erase board.                           | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1f. Eliminate Answer Choices                                          | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |            |            |            |
| 1g. General Directions Clarified                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |            |            |            |
| 1h. General Directions Read Aloud and Repeated as Needed              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |            |            |            |
| 1i. Highlight Tool                                                    | <b>Universal Tool:</b> A highlighter tool is built into the test platform. For PBT, students can use standard highlighting tools (e.g., highlighters or colored pencils), but responses must be marked with a number 2 pencil only.                                                                                              | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1j. Headphones or Noise Buffers                                       | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Audio aids include amplification devices, noise buffers, and white noise machines. These tools can be provided by the school or by the student.                                                                                                                                                           | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |

| Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, & Accommodations Manual 2026-2027           | WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual 2026-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Listening  | Reading    | Writing    | Speaking   |
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| 1k. Line Reader Mask Tool                                                       | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Allows the student to follow along with each line of text. The student can drag the line up, down, left, or right on the screen as an aid in reading an item or passage. For PBT, Students can use a variety of locally provided or embedded tools (e.g., straight edge or embedded digital line guide) to guide their eyes and support tracking while reading. Tracking tools used in the classroom, such as note cards, bookmarks, or sentence highlighting strips, can be used during testing as long as they do not contain text or notation in any language. | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1l. Magnification/Enlargement Device                                            | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Allows the student to access the magnifier options: x1.5, x2.0, x3.0, or x4.0. Once the tool is activated, an "Off" option will also appear when this icon is clicked again. A large monitor might display text large enough to minimize the need for the magnifier tool. For PBT, Students can use a device for low-vision needs with a standard or large-print test booklet.                                                                                                                                                                                    | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1m. Notepad                                                                     | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Allows the student to create a small note in which they can type a short message for later reference. The Notepad is only available for Writing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | CBT        | CBT        | CBT        | CBT        |
| 1n. Pop-Up Glossary                                                             | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |            |            |            |
| 1o. Redirect Student                                                            | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Quietly, without disturbing other test takers, direct a student's attention to the test when the student is demonstrating off-task behavior. Do not coach the student on test-taking skills or offer guidance on how to respond to a question. You can redirect the student in English or in a language familiar to the student.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1p. Spell Check or External Spell Check Device                                  | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |            |            |            |
| 1q. Student Reads Content Aloud to Him or Herself                               | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Students may read any part of the test aloud to themselves, with or without the use of a device such as a whisper or fluency phone. If the student's reading is a distraction to other students, arrange an individual test administration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1r: Text-to-Speech for the Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Assessments | <b>WIDA Accommodation IR:</b> In-Person Human Reader<br><b>WIDA Accommodation RP:</b> Repeat In-Person Human Reader                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | CBT<br>PBT | N/A        | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |

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| 1s: Human Reader or Human Signer for the Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Assessments | <b>WIDA Accommodation IR:</b> In-Person Human Reader<br><b>WIDA Accommodation RP:</b> Repeat In-Person Human Reader                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | CBT<br>PBT | N/A        | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1t: Writing Tools                                                                             | <b>WIDA Accommodation WD:</b> Word Processor or Similar Keyboarding Device<br><b>Note:</b> Any spelling or grammar checking function is turned off, any dictionary or thesaurus features are disabled, and that the device is not connected to the internet.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | N/A        |
| 1u. Graphic Organizer                                                                         | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |            |            |            |
| 1v. Audio Materials                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |            |            |            |
| 1w. Spanish Version Computer based assessment                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |            |            |            |            |
| 1x. Bluetooth Hearing Aids                                                                    | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Students with hearing aids or cochlear implants may utilize Bluetooth functions between their personal amplification device and the testing device, if compatible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 1y. Electronic Device for Medical Purposes                                                    | <b>Universal Tool:</b> Students who use an electronic device for medical purposes (for example, a glucose monitor or hearing aid) may have access to the device during testing. This applies even if the device is one that is typically not permitted while testing, such as a smartphone or smartwatch. The device should only support the student for medical reasons, and the test administrator must closely monitor the use of the device to maintain test security. | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 2a. Small Group                                                                               | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b> Test students in any group size that makes them most comfortable, that reflects their typical classroom environment, or that follows any group size guidelines documented in an IEP or 504 Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 2b. Time of Day                                                                               | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |            |            |            |
| 2c: Separate or Alternate Location                                                            | <b>WIDA Accommodation NS:</b> Test Administered in a Non-School Setting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 2d. Specified Area or Setting                                                                 | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b> Seat students anywhere in the testing environment that helps them hear, see, focus, or otherwise engage with the test.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |

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| 2e. Adaptive or Specialized Equipment or Furniture                              | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b> Students who routinely use adaptive or specialized furniture or equipment—such as special seating, weighted vests, fidget tools, noise reducing headphones, specialized lighting or acoustics, or adaptive keyboards—should have access to this equipment or furniture during testing. | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 2f. Frequent Breaks                                                             | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b> Any student may take a break at any point, as needed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 2g. Reduce Distraction to Self                                                  | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b> Test students in any group size that makes them most comfortable, that reflects their typical classroom environment, or that follows any group size guidelines documented in an IEP or 504 Plan.                                                                                       | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 2h. Reduce Distraction to Others                                                | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b> Test students in any group size that makes them most comfortable, that reflects their typical classroom environment, or that follows any group size guidelines documented in an IEP or 504 Plan.                                                                                       | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 3a: Assistive Technology (Non-screen reader) (also a response accommodation 4a) | <b>WIDA Accommodation AT: Assistive Technology</b><br>(New for 2027)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 3b. Screen Reader Version                                                       | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |            |            |            |
| 3c: Refreshable Braille Display                                                 | <b>WIDA Accommodation BR: Braille</b><br>Note: Requires approval from MSDE Office of Assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | CBT        | CBT        | CBT        | CBT        |
| 3d: Hard Copy Braille Edition                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        |
| 3e. Tactile Graphics                                                            | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |            |            |            |
| 3f: Large Print Edition                                                         | <b>WIDA Accommodation LP: Large Print</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        |
| 3g: Paper Based Edition (Paper Test) *Refer to 4K                               | Order the paper version of WIDA ACCESS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        |
| 3h. Closed Captioning of Multimedia Passages                                    | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |            |            |            |
| 3i: Text-to-Speech for ELA/Literacy                                             | <b>WIDA Accommodation IR:</b> In-Person Human Reader<br><b>WIDA Accommodation RP:</b> Repeat In-Person Human Reader                                                                                                                                                                                                         | CBT<br>PBT | N/A        | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |

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| 3k: Human Reader/Human Signer for ELA                                                             | <b>WIDA Accommodation IR:</b> In-Person Human Reader<br><b>WIDA Accommodation RP:</b> Repeat In-Person Human Reader<br><b>WIDA Accommodation LV:</b> Low Vision Script*<br>*Available for ACCESS for Kindergarten only                                                                                                                  | CBT<br>PBT<br>PBT | N/A<br>N/A<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT<br>PBT |
| 3m: Human Signer for Test Directions                                                              | <b>WIDA Accommodation SD:</b> Interpreter Signs Test Directions in ASL (Note: Translation of actual test items is not allowed)                                                                                                                                                                                                          | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        |
| 3n: Manual Control of Audio                                                                       | <b>WIDA Accommodation MC:</b> Applies only to WIDA ACCESS Paper (New for 2027)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | PBT               | N/A               | PBT               | PBT               |
| 3o: Repeat Item Audio                                                                             | <b>WIDA Accommodation RA:</b> Repeat Item Audio<br>*Note: Must be pre-selected in the WIDA AMS for CBT.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | CBT<br>PBT        | N/A               | CBT               | CBT<br>PBT        |
| 4a: Assistive Technology                                                                          | <b>WIDA Accommodation AT:</b> Assistive Technology (New for 2027)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        |
| 4b: Braille Notetaker                                                                             | <b>WIDA Accommodation BR:</b> Braille<br>*Requires approval from MSDE Office of Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | PBT               | PBT               | PBT               | N/A               |
| 4c. Braille Writer                                                                                | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| 4d. Mathematics Tools / Calculator on Calculator sections of the Math and Science Assessments     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| 4e. Mathematics Tools / Calculator on non-calculator sections of the Math and Science Assessments |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| 4f: Speech to Text                                                                                | <b>WIDA Accommodation WD:</b> Word Processor or Similar Keyboarding Device<br><b>WIDA Accommodation STT:</b> Speech to Text (New for 2027)<br>Note: Any spelling, word prediction, or grammar checking function is turned off, any dictionary or thesaurus features are disabled, and that the device is not connected to the internet. | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        |
| 4g: Human Scribe Response                                                                         | <b>WIDA Accommodation SR:</b> Scribe                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        | CBT<br>PBT        |

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| 4h. Human Signer Response                                                               | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                 |            |            |            |            |
| 4i: Monitor Test Response                                                               | <b>Administrative Consideration:</b> Test administrators may monitor students as they test to ensure that answers are marked in the correct location. | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT | CBT<br>PBT |
| 4j. Word Prediction- External Device                                                    | <b>Not applicable</b>                                                                                                                                 |            |            |            |            |
| 4k: Answers recorded in test book (for students taking a paper assessment) *Refer to 3g | MLs with disabilities who take the paper-based WIDA ACCESS per their IEP or 504 Plan write answers in test book.                                      | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        | PBT        |
| 4l: Recording Devices                                                                   | <b>WIDA Accommodation RD:</b> Recording Device and Transcription                                                                                      | N/A        | N/A        | CBT<br>PBT | N/A        |
| 5a. Extended Time                                                                       | <b>WIDA Accommodation ES:</b> Extended Speaking Test Response Time (Note: Must be pre-selected in the WIDA AMS for CBT)                               | N/A        | N/A        | N/A        | CBT<br>PBT |