

Understanding and Implementing ACCESS Tests

August 16, 2023

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Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



ACCESS Testing Window 2024

ACCESS for ELLs Testing Window Dates and Deadlines 2023-2024

Testing Specifics		Start Date	End Date
Pre-Testing	WIDA AMS Test Setup	11/30/2023	3/1/2024*
	Schools Receive Test Materials	1/3/2024	1/3/2024
Testing	TEST WINDOW	1/4/2024	2/16/2024
Post-Testing	Additional Test Materials Ordering (in WIDA AMS)	1/3/2024	2/9/2024
	Deadline for Scheduling UPS Pickup of Materials	2/19/2024	2/19/2024**
	Deadline for Shipping Materials to DRC	2/20/2024	2/20/2024**
	Pre-Reporting Data Validation (in WIDA AMS)	3/25/2024	4/1/2024
	Reports and Data Files Available (in WIDA AMS)	4/26/2024	4/26/2024
	Reports Arrive in Schools (printed)	5/15/2024	5/15/2024
	Post-Reporting Data Validation (in WIDA AMS)	5/15/2024	5/23/2024
	Updated Data Posted (in WIDA AMS)	6/7/2024	6/7/2024
	Alternate ACCESS Reports and Data Files Available (in WIDA AMS)	9/16/2024	9/16/2024
	Alternate ACCESS Reports Arrive in Schools (printed)	10/7/2024	10/7/2024

*Students must be placed in registrations prior to testing. Testing closes on February 16, 2024.

**These dates occur during February break for most districts. Plan accordingly.

ELs new to MA who arrive on or before February 9 are required to be tested. If paper materials are needed, this is also the last day to order paper materials for them.

Participation Requirements

- Students in K-12 must take **ACCESS for ELLs (ACCESS)** if they:
 - were reported as EL in the October 2023 SIMS, **OR**
 - arrived after October 2023 and will be reported as EL in the March 2024 SIMS
 - are new to MA and arrived on or before February 9, 2024.
- Students should be considered for **WIDA Alternate ACCESS** if they:
 - Are a student with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and
 - Meet the criteria found in the “Participation Guidelines: Which Students Should Take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS?” (to be updated this fall)
- Students whose parents have opted them out of EL services are required to take ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS until they meet exit criteria*
- Accommodations for ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS and should be listed in the student’s signed IEP
 - Accommodations may be different from those on MCAS
 - If the student is taking the WIDA Alternate ACCESS, this must also be listed in the IEP

*Exit criteria for ACCESS is 4.2 overall and 3.9 literacy. WIDA Alternate ACCESS exit criteria have not yet been established.

Modes of Testing

- Online (grades 1-12) – students are expected to test online
 - Grades 1-3 writing is administered on paper, but considered an online test
- Paper-based testing (grades 1-12) is available for:
 - Students with paper-based testing written in their IEP
 - First-year ELs who are unfamiliar with online testing or use of computers
- Kindergarten is paper-based, administered 1:1, locally scored
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS is paper-based, administered 1:1, locally scored
 - Only for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities
 - Must be written in the IEP
 - Available for grades K-12



Accommodations Available in Massachusetts

ACCESS Accommodation and code	Online	Paper	Kindergarten	Alternate
Extended Speaking Test Response Time (ES)	X	X		
In-person Human Reader (IR)	X	X		
Repeat In-person Human Reader (RP)	X	X		
Interpreter Signs Directions in ASL (SD)	X	X	X	X
Manual Control of Item Audio (MC)	X	X		
Repeat Item Audio (RA)	X	X		
Scribe (SR)	X	X	X	X
Recording Device and Transcription (RD)	X	X	X	X
Test Administered in a Non-school Setting (NS)	X	X	X	X
Word Processor or Similar Keyboarding Device (WD)	X	X	X	X
Large Print (LP)		X	X	
Braille (BR)		X		

WIDA Website

<https://wida.wisc.edu>



Assess Teach Grow Research About News

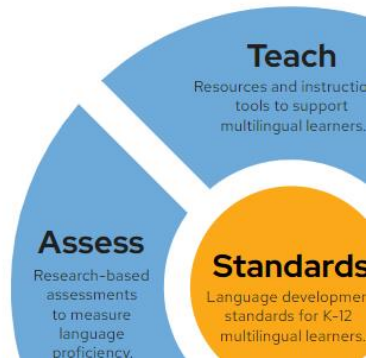
Member/State Pages

Login



A trusted, comprehensive approach to supporting, teaching and assessing multilingual learners

Select any WIDA system segment to learn more.



- Public resources and information
- ELD Standards Framework
- Can Do Descriptors
- Score calculators
- Log-in to WIDA Secure Portal
 - Trainings and webinars
- Link to state pages

WIDA Secure Portal

<https://portal.wida.us/home>

- Test administration trainings
- WIDA/DRC webinars
- Manuals and guides
- Parent resources
- Certifications



Choose your path



Assessment Training

Get trained on WIDA Assessments



Professional Learning

High-quality professional learning, right where you are



Webinars

Live and recorded webinars on a variety of topics



Resources

Resources to help you make the most of your WIDA experience



My Certifications

View or print certificates for your completed courses

MA State Page on the WIDA Website

<https://wida.wisc.edu/memberships/consortium/ma>



Assess Teach Grow Research About News

Massachusetts

[Memberships and Programs](#) < Massachusetts

Member of the WIDA Consortium since 2012.

Assessments

Massachusetts uses the Kindergarten W-APT, WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, and WIDA Screener for Grades 1-12 to identify English learners (ELs). **Beginning January 1, 2023, only the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten and WIDA Screener for Grades 1-12 will be used to identify ELs.** ACCESS for ELLs or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, as appropriate, is given to all ELs during the annual testing window, which extends from early January through early February.

Testing Dates

12/1/22-2/10/23	WIDA AMS test setup available for test sessions
1/3/23	Schools receive test materials
1/3/23-2/3/23	Additional test materials ordering window in AMS
1/5/23-2/10/23	Test Window
2/14/23	Deadline for shipping completed test materials to DRC
3/27/23-3/31/23	Pre-reporting data validation in WIDA AMS
5/5/23	Schools receive reports - Online
5/17/23	Schools receive reports - Printed
5/17/23-5/25/23	Post-reporting data validation in WIDA AMS
6/9/23	Updated data posted in AMS

Contacts

[Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ACCESS for ELLs](#)

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WIDA Client Services Center
Contact us for questions about training materials or test administration procedures, classroom resources, or for problems with your WIDA Secure Portal account.

help@wida.us
(866) 276-7735

Logging In

Requirements and Resources

See below for state-specific information and resources related to EL assessment, including your state's ACCESS for ELLs Checklists, indicating each step in the ACCESS testing process from beginning to end.

[ACCESS for ELLs Online Checklist](#)

[ACCESS for ELLs Paper Checklist](#)

[Identification and Placement Guidance](#)

State Testing Requirements

+

Test Preparation and Training

+

Manuals, Guides and Workshops

-

[2023 ACCESS for ELLs Data Validation Workshop - March 2023](#)

- This presentation provides timelines for both pre- and post-reporting data validation as well as information regarding how to access data validation in WIDA AMS. It also provides a review of ACCESS participation requirements, tasks to complete, and where to find resources and support.

[2023 Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test Workshop - January 2023](#)

- This presentation provides information to schools regarding the administration of the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test. Topics covered include training requirements for test administrators, important dates, participation requirements, additional materials ordering, accommodations, and helpful resources.

[ACCESS for ELLs Reporting Workshop - May 2023](#)

- This workshop provides District ACCESS for ELLs Test Coordinators with information regarding the 2023 ACCESS for ELLs test results and where to locate district and school results in WIDA AMS, and the DESE Security Portal DropBox and Edwin. Also discussed is information included in

Requirements and Resources

See below for state-specific information and resources related to EL assessment, including your state's










DRC Insight (WIDA AMS)

- Student Management and Test Session/Registration
- Additional Materials Ordering
- Add Student to AMS or Remove from Registration
- Initial Score Reports
- Data Validation
- Knowledge Articles & Chat - DRC Support Features

DRC INSIGHT WIDA MY APPLICATIONS ▾

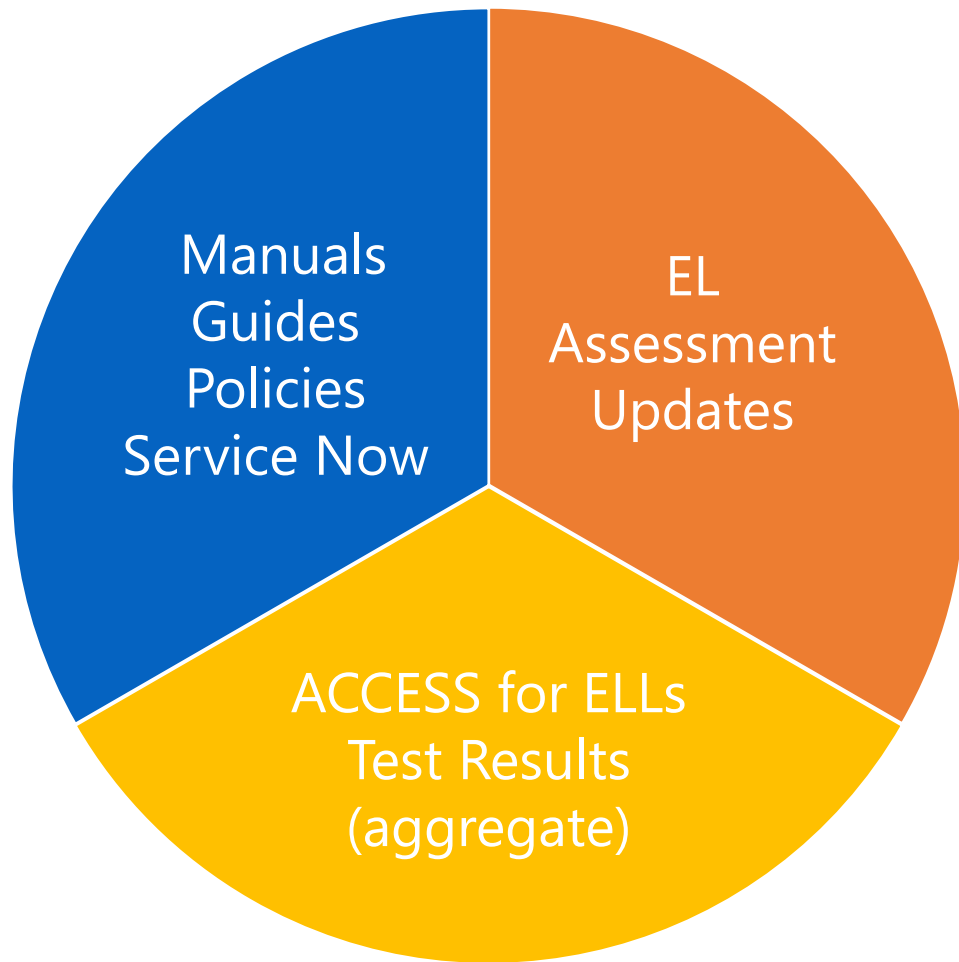
WIDA AMS <https://wida-ams.us>

Welcome! What would you like to do today?

 Add/Edit Users	 Import Students	 Manage Students
 Manage Test Sessions / Registrations	 Download Individual Student Reports	 Score WIDA Screens
 Order and Manage ACCESS Materials	 Download Status Reports	 Install and Configure

[Get Help](#) [Public Test Resources](#)

DESE ACCESS Web Page



dese MASSACHUSETTS Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Most Requested: Licensure Learning Standards MCAS Educator Evaluation MTEL

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

- Student Assessment
- Graduation Requirements
- MCAS
- MCAS Alternate Assessment
- MCAS Grade-Level and Competency Portfolio
- Performance Appeals
- Educational Proficiency Plans (EPPs)
- ACCESS for ELLs
 - Results
- National/International Tests
- Parent/Guardian Information
- Training Opportunities

ACCESS for ELLs

(Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English La

ACCESS for ELLs Updates

There are no ACCESS for ELLs Headlines at this time

[ACCESS for ELLs Updates Archive](#)

Background and Student Participation

Federal and state laws require that English learner (EL) students be assessed annually to measure their proficiency in reading, writing, listen are required to participate in ACCESS for ELLs tests. ACCESS for ELLs tests are administered annually in January-February.

EL students are also required to participate in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests for their grade.

- [Participation Requirements for EL Students, including EL students with disabilities, in MCAS](#)
- [Participation Guidelines: Which Students Should Take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?](#)
- [Mode Adjustments for ACCESS Testing 2016-2019](#)
- [ELL Update: New Exit Criteria, Equivalent Proficiency Levels, and Recommended Amount of Language Instruction \(2017\)](#)

ACCESS for ELLs Tests and WIDA Screeners — General Resources

- [EL Assessment Updates](#)
- [Instructions for Creating WIDA and WIDA AMS Personal Accounts](#)
- [Massachusetts State Page on the WIDA Website](#)

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/access/>



Most Requested:

Licensure

Learning Standards

MCAS

Educator Evaluation

MTEL

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Student Assessment

Graduation Requirements

MCAS

MCAS Alternate Assessment

MCAS Grade-Level and Competency Portfolio

Performance Appeals

Educational Proficiency Plans (EPPs)

ACCESS for ELLs

▪ Results

National/International Tests

Parent/Guardian Information

Training Opportunities

ACCESS for ELLs Results

Select Year: 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |

2022 Results

- [2022 Reporting Element 4: State, Title III Districts, and Consortia](#)
- [2022 ACCESS for ELLs Results by District](#)
- [2022 ACCESS for ELLs Results by School](#)

2022 Interpretive Materials

- [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#)
- [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#)

If you have questions on these resources, or wish to obtain a copy of yo

**Aggregate
ACCESS
Results
on the
DESE ACCESS
Web Page**

Reporting Elements

- **Reporting Element 1** – # and % making progress, disaggregated for EL SWD
- **Reporting Element 2** – # and % attaining proficiency (i.e., meeting exit criteria – Level 4.2 overall and 3.9 literacy)
- **Reporting Element 3** – # and % exited based on attaining proficiency
- **Reporting Element 4** – # and % FELs meeting or exceeding expectations on MCAS ELA, Math, and STE, disaggregated for FEL SWD
- **Reporting Element 5** – # and % not-yet-proficient after six years

[Guide to Understanding the Title III Reporting Elements for English Learners in Massachusetts for 2017 and Beyond](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/access/) available on DESE ACCESS webpage: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/access/>

2023 ACCESS Individual Student Results in [DESE Security Portal](#) DropBox and Edwin

- Round 1 — *without* Student Growth Percentile on ACCESS (SGPA), progress indicator, attainment, or 2024 targets
 - **DropBox** in late June and in **Edwin** in early July.
- Round 2 — *with* Student Growth Percentile on ACCESS (SGPA), progress indicator, attainment, 2024 targets
 - **DropBox** in late July and in **Edwin** in early August

Additional information regarding ACCESS for ELLs reporting can be found on the [Massachusetts state page of the WIDA website](#) under Manuals, Guides and Workshops in the [ACCESS for ELLs Reporting Workshop — May 2023](#) PowerPoint presentation.

Trainings and Workshops for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators



DESE training and workshop PowerPoints are found on the [MA State page of the WIDA website](#).

[2024 ACCESS for ELLs Test Coordinator Training Workshop – Fall 2023](#). (Available in December 2023).

[ACCESS for ELLs Reporting Workshop – May 2023](#)

[ACCESS for ELLs Data Validation Workshop – March 2023](#)

More



WIDA and DRC trainings and workshops are found in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#).

Test Administration Trainings and Certifications (Assessment Training)

How to navigate WIDA AMS/DRC Insight, manage test materials, conduct data validation, etc. (Webinars)



Registration information for DESE trainings and workshops will be announced in EL Assessment Updates.

Registration for WIDA and DRC trainings are available in the WIDA Secure Portal.

Training and Certification for Administering ACCESS Tests

- Training and certification is required every two years in Massachusetts.
- The following ACCESS for ELLs training courses will be **unavailable through August 31, 2023***:
 - Online ACCESS for ELLs: Administration
 - Paper ACCESS for ELLs: Administration
 - Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring
- ***Everyone*** who will administer the WIDA Alternate ACCESS in 2024 will need to take the “Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring” training course and certification quizzes prior to administering the new WIDA Alternate ACCESS tests.

*If you took the “Online ACCESS for ELLs: Administration” or “Paper ACCESS for ELLs: Administration” trainings above last year and certified, you do not need to recertify in 2024. You should review the training courses, however, to become familiar with technical enhancements to WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT.

To Do

1. Update roles in School and District Profiles
2. Ensure students' EL status in October SIMS is correct
3. Check with ACCESS for ELLs Test Coordinators to ensure test administrators are trained and certified
4. Review the Checklists from the MA state page of the WIDA website (2024 checklists coming in September)
5. Watch for EL Assessment Updates for information and DESE webinar registrations throughout the year
6. Bookmark the [MA state page of the WIDA website](#) for testing schedule and resources

ACCESS for ELLs: Directing Your Questions

- **MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** access@mass.gov 781-338-3625
 - Policies and program management, preparation for test administration – [DESE ACCESS web page](#)
- **WIDA** help@wida.us 866-276-7735
 - Standards, training, and test development - [WIDA Secure Portal](#)
 - MA specific information- [MA State page of the WIDA website](#)
- **Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)**
WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com 855-787-9615
 - Technology, ordering additional test materials, shipping test materials, testing, scoring, reporting) - [DRC Insight/WIDA AMS](#)



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