



MASSACHUSETTS

STATE SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS

ACCESS for ELLs Administration (2020-2021)

Part I: Protocols for Massachusetts Principals and/or Test Coordinators

1. Ordering Additional Test Materials

Please conduct a complete inventory of test materials as soon as they arrive on January 4, 2021. Additional materials may be ordered from January 4 through May 14 using [WIDA AMS](#). Schools should attempt to limit themselves to **one additional materials order**. When ordering additional materials, be sure to also order UPS labels, DRC return shipping labels, and any School/District return labels that are needed. A small supply of School/District return labels are included in the initial shipment. Please use these before ordering additional labels.

2. Suggested Testing Times: ACCESS tests are untimed. Use the following guidance to assist in scheduling student test administrations.

- ✓ The **online** ACCESS tests for grades 1–12 must be completed in one session for each of the following areas:
 - Listening (about 40 minutes)
 - Reading (about 35 minutes)
 - Writing (45 to 65 minutes)
 - Speaking (about 30 minutes).
- ✓ The **paper-based** ACCESS tests for grades 1–12 are designed to be completed in one session for each of the following areas:
 - Listening (about 40 minutes)
 - Reading (about 45 minutes)
 - **(Note:** Listening and Reading may be combined into one 100-minute session)
 - Writing (35 to 65 minutes)
 - Speaking (about 35 minutes).
- ✓ The **Kindergarten** test is individually administered in paper-based format in one test session of about 45 minutes. Breaks are allowed, and if necessary, the test may be administered in two sessions: A-C (narrative) and D-F (expository), either morning and afternoon or on two separate days.
- ✓ The **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** test is individually administered in paper-based format in four 20-minute (estimated) test sessions, one each in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

3. Students who transfer into and out of a school during testing: [Instructions](#) can be found on the DESE ACCESS web page. Information regarding the WIDA Student Transfer Form in WIDA AMS can be found beginning on page 72 of the [WIDA AMS User Guide](#).

4. Student use of cell phones, smart watches, computers, or other electronic devices (other than for testing) is prohibited during the administration of the ACCESS for ELLs tests.

Part II: Providing Accurate Student Information

Before Testing – Online (See [WIDA AMS User Guide](#) for details)

- ✓ Information for each student who was reported as an EL in October 2020 SIMS will be preloaded in WIDA AMS for your school. Students who entered the school between the October SIMS submission and May 14, 2021, the last day for testing new students, will need to be manually entered into WIDA AMS. **To add individual students**, click on Student Management>Manage



Students, select Add Student and complete the information in the Student Detail tab. The Demographics tab is not required. Select which accommodations the student will need, if any, in the Accommodations tab. The student must then be placed in a test session, which will allow a test ticket to be printed for the student. Instructions can be found on pages 64 and 90 of the [WIDA AMS User Guide](#). If a student was exited from EL status after October SIMS and before the testing window opens on January 7, 2021, remove the student from test sessions in WIDA AMS and code them as non-EL in the next SIMS.

- ✓ **To add multiple students**, download the pre-populated school or district File Layout at: **Security Portal>Applications List>Drop Box Central>ACCESS Data 2021**. Data fields A–K and M must be completed. Fields AF–AU should be completed for students who require accommodations. All other fields can be left blank. Then, in WIDA AMS, go to Student Management>Manage Students>Upload Multiple Students. Instructions may be found on pages 65–66 of the [WIDA AMS User Guide](#).
- ✓ If a student with a disability received one or more of the following accommodations in 2020, the same accommodations will be included in the test pre-ordered for the student by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for 2021. These accommodations must be entered in WIDA AMS **before** testing: Manual control of item audio (MC); Repeat item audio (RA); or Extended Speaking test response time (ES). Other accommodations may either be entered before **or** after testing. Accommodations can be added for individual students, or for multiple students by using the multiple student upload of the Student File.

Before Testing – Paper-Based (including Kindergarten and Alternate ACCESS)

- ✓ For each student reported as an EL in October 2020 SIMS, you will receive a **Pre-ID Label** which should be affixed to the student’s test booklet and, if used, handwriting booklets for online Writing testing. Labels with incorrect information may be applied to the booklet, but student information must also be updated in WIDA AMS, since data in WIDA AMS will override the booklet. Please also update corrected student information in your district’s March SIMS. As with other test materials, Pre-ID Labels may *not* be transferred to another school or used for another student. Instructions for editing student demographic information can be found on page 60 of the [WIDA AMS User Guide](#).
- ✓ If a student does not have a Pre-ID Label you must affix a **District/School Label** and complete the student demographic information on the front and back covers of the new test booklet. (Back cover instructions are shown in the table below.)

After Testing – Online (See [WIDA AMS User Guide](#) for details)

- ✓ If a student’s accommodation information was not entered prior to testing, or was entered incorrectly, it should be entered under Student Management>Manage Students, then click on Update Accommodations.
- ✓ If a student was not tested in one or more sections, see below.

After Testing – Paper-Based (including Kindergarten and Alternate ACCESS)

- ✓ Complete **box 2** on the front cover of the student’s booklet (Date of Testing) with the date that each student completed testing.
- ✓ Complete the **back cover** of each student’s test booklet according to the instructions below; then **leave all other boxes blank on the back cover of the test booklet**.

Test Booklet back cover instructions for completion:

| Box Number and Description | Students with a Pre-ID | Students without a Pre-ID Label |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 4. District Name and School Name | Leave blank | Print the district name and school name |
| 8. Birth Date | Leave blank | Print the birth date and fill in the boxes |



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 10. Grade Level | Leave blank | Print grade level and fill in the boxes |
| 17. State Student ID Number | Leave blank | Print the 10-digit SASID and fill in the boxes |
| 22. School Use Only – Accommodations | Fill in the appropriate box to indicate the accommodations used (see below for instructions) | |
| 23. Do Not Score This Section for This Student | Fill in the appropriate box for each test section in which the student was <i>not</i> tested (see pages 11 and 14 in the Test Administrator Manual .) | |

Instructions for Completing Box 22 (School Use Only – Accommodations):

- ✓ Fill in the box corresponding to the accommodation used by a student with a disability, according to the details below.

Instructions for Completing Box 23 (Do Not Score This Section for This Student):

- ✓ If a student was **not tested** in one or more sections, indicate the reason (see below) by filling in the appropriate box.

Do Not Score This Section for This Student (Online or Paper-based test)

- ✓ If a student was **not tested** in one or more sections, indicate one of the following reasons by selecting the appropriate box under Student Management>Manage Students.
 - **Absent (ABS):** Student was absent for one or more sections of the test (including illness, other medical condition, or for any other reason) and did not participate in make-up testing prior to the end of the testing window.
 - **Invalidate (INV):** Student’s results should not be reported because of a testing irregularity. Do not fill in an INV box if a student’s booklet should be marked as void because it was assigned to a different student by mistake; instead, affix a Do Not Process label. If an INV code is needed, fill out an [ACCESS for ELLs Irregularity Reporting Form](#) to request an INV code from the Department.
 - **Declined (DEC):** Student refused to participate in one or more sections.
 - **Deferred Special Education/504 (SPD):** Student did not take one or more sections because the read-aloud or text-to-speech accommodation for the Reading assessment was listed in the IEP or 504 plan, but was unavailable for ACCESS; or the student was Deaf/Hard of hearing, or Blind/Visually Impaired and could not participate in the Listening and Speaking test sections; or the student is nonverbal/selectively mute and does not use alternate and augmentative communication (AAC) devices and could not participate in the Speaking test section; or required an alternate assessment in kindergarten.

Test Accommodations

Test accommodations for Massachusetts students with disabilities are listed in the tables on the following pages. **Information on the accommodations used by each EL student with a disability must be entered in WIDA AMS (for online testing) or on the back cover of the test booklet (for paper-based testing).**

Accommodations may only be provided to students whose IEP or 504 plan lists the accommodation.

Accommodations are listed in four categories: **Test Presentation, Test Responses, Test Setting, and Timing/Scheduling.** Each table on the following pages includes:

- the ACCESS test section(s), if any, in which the accommodation is allowed;
- accommodations that are specific to **online** ACCESS testing; and
- accommodations that are specific to **paper-based** ACCESS testing and are comparable to those offered for online testing (where available).



ACCESS Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Test Presentation

| Test Presentation Accommodations | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Online (Accommodation code) | Paper-Based (Accommodation code) | Test Domains | | | |
| | | Listening | Reading | Speaking | Writing |
| Manual control of item audio (MC)* Student manually starts the pre-recorded audio embedded in certain test item prompts. | Manual control of item audio (MC)* Test administrator asks if student is ready to listen, then plays the audio of a pre-recorded human voice on a CD for certain test item prompts. | Yes | No | Yes | Yes – online test only; N/A for paper test |
| Repeat item audio (RA)* Student manually plays and repeats pre-recorded audio embedded in certain test item prompts. | Repeat item audio (RA)* Test administrator asks if student is ready to listen, then repeats a pre-recorded human voice on a CD for certain test item prompts. | Yes – repeat item only once | No | Yes | Yes |
| | Human reader for Listening response options (HR) | Yes | No | N/A | N/A |
| | Human reader for repeat of response options (RR) | Yes – repeat item only once | No | N/A | N/A |
| N/A | Human reader for items (HI) | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| N/A | Human reader for repeat of items (RI) | Yes – repeat item only once | No | Yes | Yes |
| N/A | Large print version of test (LP) (must be transcribed into test booklet by test administrator) | Yes | | | |
| N/A | Braille version of test (BR) (must be transcribed into test booklet by test administrator) | N/A | Yes | N/A | Yes |
| Interpreter signs test directions in ASL or another sign system (SD) | | Yes | | | |



ACCESS Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Test Responses

| Test Response Accommodations | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Online (Accommodation code) | Paper-Based (Accommodation code) | Test Domains | | | |
| | | Listening | Reading | Speaking | Writing |
| Scribed response (SR) | | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes |
| Word processor or similar keyboarding device to respond to test items (WD) (must be transcribed by test administrator) | | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes |
| Student responds using a recording device, which is played back and transcribed by student (RD) | | N/A | N/A | N/A | Yes |

ACCESS Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Test Setting

| Test Setting Accommodations | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Online (Accommodation code) | Paper-Based (Accommodation code) | Test Domains | | | |
| | | Listening | Reading | Speaking | Writing |
| Test may be administered by school personnel in a non-school setting, with DESE approval (NS) | | Yes | | | |

ACCESS Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Timing and Scheduling Accommodations

| Timing and Scheduling Accommodations | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Online (Accommodation code) | Paper-Based (Accommodation code) | Test Domains | | | |
| | | Listening | Reading | Speaking | Writing |
| Extended Speaking test response time (ES)* Student may have until the end of school day to complete the online Speaking test | | N/A | N/A | Yes | N/A |

*The accommodations for *manual control of item audio (MC)*, *repeat item audio (RA)*, and *extended Speaking test response time (ES)* must be pre-ordered for online test administration in order to be activated at the time of testing. Students will not receive accommodated test forms if accommodations are not selected prior to printing test tickets. Instructions for adding accommodations for single students can be found on page 58, and for multiple students on page 59 of the [WIDA AMS User Guide](#).

Unique Accommodations Requests

If an English learner with a disability requires an accommodation that is not listed in the WIDA [Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement](#), the school may request approval from the Department for the use of a unique accommodation.

The school may request approval (via email) for use of a unique accommodation by submitting the request to access@mass.gov at least two weeks prior to testing. If approved by the Department, the accommodation must be listed in the IEP or 504 plan of a student with a disability.



Part III: Returning Materials

It is the responsibility of all Test Administrators and Test Coordinators to ensure that correct and complete information is either labeled or bubbled in each student booklet. Please refer to the [ACCESS for ELLs checklists](#) for more information on who is responsible for each task related to materials management.

To ensure all booklets have the detailed and necessary information needed to score, all Test Administrators must adhere to the following:

- **Prior to Administration**
 - o Review labels and/or bubbled information to ensure all student information is accurate.
 - o Complete labeling or bubbling if needed.
- **During Administration**
 - o Distribute the test booklets, as applicable, to the correct students.
 - o Verify that students have been given their assigned booklet.
- **Immediately Following Administration**
 - o Collect all material from all students.
 - o Review student test booklets once more for any errors or discrepancies in student information.
 - o Confirm all necessary fields are completed and all necessary labels are correctly affixed to student test booklets.
 - o Ensure all booklets are in proper condition to be returned, with no loose or damaged pages.
 - o Return test materials to a Test Coordinator or store the booklets in a secure area until they can be handed over to a Test Coordinator.

Failure to address incorrect, missing, or incomplete booklet information and labels may result in late reporting or no student score. In addition, the WIDA Consortium's national research agenda relies on complete and accurate student demographic data to inform the field and benefit English language learners.

Test Materials

Depending on the type of ACCESS for ELLs assessment you are administering, you need different types of testing materials, such as student test booklets or test tickets. Please refer to your specific assessment within Part 2 of the [Test Administrator Manual](#) or Part 2 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#) for a full list of the materials you can expect to receive prior to test administration.

Test Booklet Labels

Three types of labels may be affixed to a student test booklet: Pre-ID, District/School, or Do Not Process.

Any Booklet that contains student response information must have either a Pre-ID Label or a District/School Label with bubbled student information. Failure to adhere a label with student information will result in booklets being processed as unused and no score will be assigned. Test booklets that have a Do Not Process Label will be processed as blank even if there are student responses inside. There is no need to place a Do Not Process Label on test booklets that have not been used.

If a Do Not Process Label has been placed on a booklet that should be scored, affix a Pre-ID or District/School Label over the incorrect Do Not Process Label, and bubble in demographic information with a number 2 pencil. If a booklet that should not be scored has a Pre-ID or District/School Label affixed, place a Do Not Process label over the incorrect label.



NOTE: Do Not Process is not the same as Do Not Score (field 23 of booklet cover). A Do Not Process Label means the test booklet will not be scored and the student will not receive a report. A Do Not Score code marked in field 23 means the student will receive a score report but no scores for the domain(s) marked.

Important information about the types of test booklet labels and placement of the labels can be found beginning on page 8 of the [Test Administrator Manual](#) or on page 17 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#).

Preparing Test Materials for Return

Remember, any booklet that contains student response information must have either a Pre-ID Label or a District/School Label with bubbled student information using a **number 2 pencil**. Failure to affix a label to a booklet with student test information will result in booklets being processed as unused and no score will be assigned. If a booklet is unused, there is no need to affix a label to it. An unused booklet with a label affixed will result in the booklet being processed and scored. Do Not Process labels should be reserved for booklets that are used but should not be processed and scored. See pages 16 and 17 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#), and pages 8 and 9 of the [Test Administrator Manual](#) for information on which label to use and where to correctly place test booklet labels.

Remove staples, paper clips, and sticky notes from test booklets and securely destroy scratch paper. Any student responses written on scratch paper must be transcribed into an appropriately labeled student response booklet.

Detailed information regarding preparing test materials for return can be found beginning on page 22 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#), and beginning on page 14 of the [Test Administrator Manual](#). See the [Returning Materials](#) guide in the WIDA Secure Portal Download library for a quick reference regarding how to prepare boxes for return and where to affix DRC return shipping labels and UPS labels. A concise table listing which materials to return, keep, or securely destroy can be found on page 25 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#).

Large print and Braille test booklets

Verify that student responses have been transcribed into a standard test booklet. Affix a student Pre-ID Label or District/School Label to the standard test booklet and verify that student demographic information has been bubbled with a number 2 pencil if a District/School Label was used. Large print test booklets may be folded and shipped with other materials in a standard sized box. See the bottom of page 14 of the [Test Administrator Manual](#) or the top of page 23 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#).

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs materials that were physically modified to fit the needs of the student

Place all pieces of the test materials together in a large envelope labeled with the student's name. Cut out the bar code from the back cover of the student response booklet and securely affix it to the outside of the envelope. The bar code is critical in ensuring the booklet is accounted for. See page 24 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#).



Common Errors and Unique Situations when Preparing Materials for Return

The following information describes common situations that occur when preparing materials for return. More detailed information can be found beginning on page 15 of the [Test Administrator Manual](#) and beginning on page 23 of the [District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#).

| Issue | Solution |
|---|--|
| No student label on booklet | Booklets without labels will not be processed. If the booklet contains student responses, place a District/School Label on the front of the student test booklet and bubble in student demographic information using a number 2 pencil. Blank, unused booklets should be returned without a label affixed. |
| Modified or misplaced labels | Only booklets with DRC labels appropriately affixed will be processed. Do not write on or edit labels. If a booklet containing student responses has a label that has been modified or edited, place a District/School Label over it and complete the student demographic information on the booklet using a number 2 pencil. If a booklet that should not be scored has a Pre-ID or District/School label on it, place a Do Not Process label over the incorrect label. |
| Demographic information not bubbled | Booklets with a Pre-ID Label affixed do not need to be bubbled. If the Pre-ID Label is incorrect, changes to student demographic information should be made in WIDA AMS . If the booklet has a District/School Label affixed, the demographic information should be bubbled on the front and back of the test booklet using a number 2 pencil. You must fill in this information accurately; errors may result in incorrect, late, or missing scores for the affected students. |
| Damaged booklet | <p>Transcribe the student’s responses into a new test booklet. Transcription guidelines can be found in the Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement. Apply a District/School Label to the new test booklet and complete student demographic information using a number 2 pencil. Place a Do Not Process Label on the damaged booklet and return both the damaged booklet and the transcribed booklet.</p> <p>If in doubt about the extent of the damage and whether a new booklet is needed, contact DRC Customer Service at 855-787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com.</p> |
| Booklet soiled by bodily fluids (e.g., blood, vomit) | Transcribe student responses to a new test booklet. Transcription guidelines can be found in the Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement . Soiled booklets should not be returned to DRC. Apply a District/School Label to the new test booklet and complete student demographic information on the new test booklet using a number 2 pencil. Document the security barcode of the soiled booklet in the Materials Accountability Form in WIDA AMS, and securely destroy the soiled booklet. |
| Student mistakenly completes domains in multiple booklets | Transcribe responses as necessary to create a single test booklet for the student. (See the Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement for guidelines on transcription.) This booklet should be labeled with a Pre-ID Label or District/ School Label. If a District/School Label is affixed, |



| | |
|---|---|
| | complete all student demographic information using a number 2 pencil. The incorrect or damaged booklet(s) should have a Do Not Process Label applied prior to returning to DRC. Document the issue and resolution and keep a copy for your records. |
| Multiple students mistakenly respond in a single test booklet | Contact DRC Customer Service at 855-787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com for direction. |
| Student mistakenly completes domains using another student's test ticket (online administration only) | Contact DRC Customer Service at 855-787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com and complete a Service Now Form: ACCESS for ELLs Irregularity Reporting . |
| Materials that cannot be returned (for example, soiled) | Paper materials that could not be returned must be accounted for using the Accountability Form in WIDA AMS. This functionality allows you to document the quantity of materials returned or not returned, as well as any reasons for materials not being returned. If secure materials containing a security barcode cannot be returned, complete the Accountability Form in WIDA AMS. See page 52 of the WIDA AMS User Guide for more information. |

Contact Information: Please direct any questions regarding this document to 781-338-3625 or access@mass.gov.