



Understanding and Implementing ACCESS Tests

August 14, 2024

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ACCESS Testing Window 2025

ACCESS for ELLs Testing Window Dates and Deadlines 2024-2025

Testing Specifics		Start Date	End Date
Pre-Testing	WIDA AMS Test Setup	11/27/2024	2/28/2025*
	Schools Receive Test Materials	1/2/2025	1/2/2025
Testing	TEST WINDOW	1/6/2025	2/14/2025
Post-Testing	Additional Test Materials Ordering (in WIDA AMS)	1/2/2025	2/7/2025**
	Deadline for Scheduling UPS Pickup of Materials	2/17/2025	2/17/2025†
	Deadline for Shipping Materials to DRC	2/18/2025	2/18/2025†
	Pre-Reporting Data Validation (in WIDA AMS)	3/24/2025	3/28/2025
	Reports and Data Files Available (in WIDA AMS)	4/28/2025	4/28/2025
	Reports Arrive in Schools (printed)	5/14/2025	5/14/2025
	Post-Reporting Data Validation (in WIDA AMS)	5/14/2025	5/22/2025
	Updated Data Posted (in WIDA AMS)	6/6/2025	6/6/2025

*Students must be placed in registrations prior to testing. **TEST WINDOW CLOSES on February 14, 2025.** This date is reserved for unforeseen testing window extension if necessary.

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

**ELs new to MA who arrive and are identified as EL on or before February 7 are required to be tested. If paper materials are needed, this is also the last day to order paper materials.

Participation Requirements

- Students in K-12 must take **ACCESS for ELLs (ACCESS)** if they:
 - were reported as EL in the October 2024 SIMS, **OR**
 - arrived after October 2024 and will be reported as EL in the March 2025 SIMS
 - are new to MA and arrived and were identified as EL on or before February 7, 2025.
- Students should be considered for **WIDA Alternate ACCESS** if they:
 - Are a student with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and
 - Meet all of 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 will be announced this fall.



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

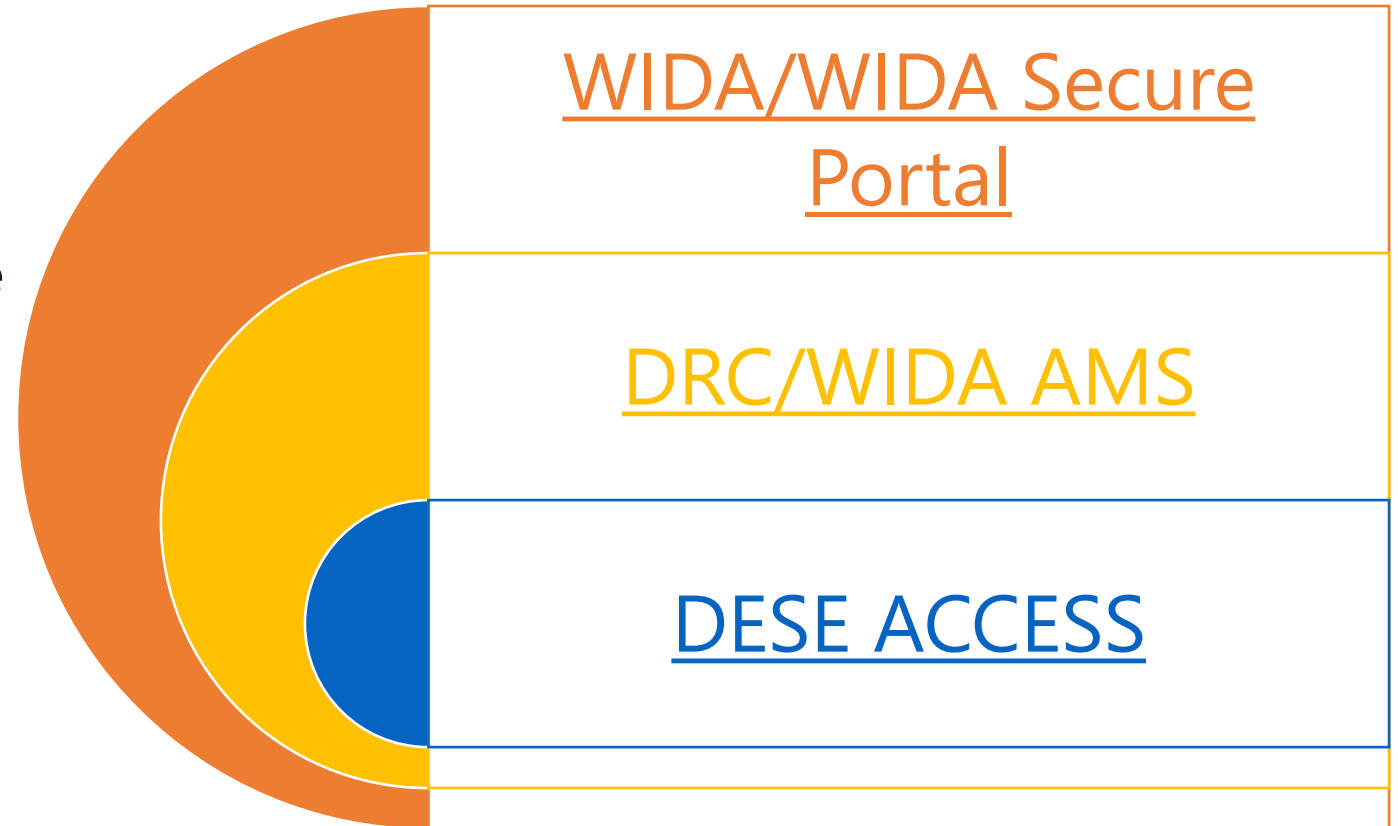


Accommodations Available in Massachusetts

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		
Extended testing of a test domain over multiple days (EM)	Not allowed in MA for any test			

Where to Find Information

- WIDA/WIDA Secure Portal
 - General information about the consortium and its products
 - Test administration training courses
 - WIDA and DRC webinars
 - MA State page of the WIDA website
 - MA specific information and policies
 - DESE webinar PowerPoints
- DRC/WIDA AMS
 - Testing
 - Initial results and reports
- DESE ACCESS webpage
 - Massachusetts specific information, resources, policies, aggregate results, guidelines



WIDA Website

<https://wida.wisc.edu>



Assess Teach Grow Research About News

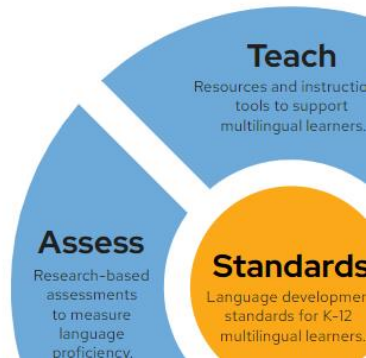
Member/State Pages

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
 - Resources
 - Webinars
- Links to state pages and state-specific information

WIDA Secure Portal



[Assessment Training](#) [Professional Learning](#) [Webinars](#) [Resources](#) [My Certifications](#)



- 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

[About](#) < [WIDA Consortium](#) < [Massachusetts](#)

Member of the WIDA Consortium since 2012.

Assessments

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

Testing Dates

11/30/23-3/1/24	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Registrations
1/3/24	Schools Receive Test Materials
1/3/24-2/9/24	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in AMS
1/4/24-2/28/24	Test Window
3/1/24	Deadline for Shipping Completed Test Materials to DRC
3/25/24-4/1/24	Pre-Reporting Data Validation - LEAs in WIDA AMS
4/26/24	Reports and Data Files Available - Online
5/15/24	Reports Available in Schools - Printed
5/15/24 - 5/22/24	Post-Reporting Data Validation - LEAs in WIDA AMS

Contacts

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

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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](#)

[Massachusetts State-Specific Directions](#)

State Testing Requirements

Test Preparation and Training

Manuals, Guides and Workshops

[Understanding and Implementing ACCESS Tests - New EL Directors Meeting - August 16, 2023](#)

- This PowerPoint provides an overview of key information regarding ACCESS testing. Topics include participation requirements, important dates and deadlines within the testing window, and roles and responsibilities of district and school staff. The presentation covers where to find helpful resources as well as Department, WIDA, and DRC contact information.

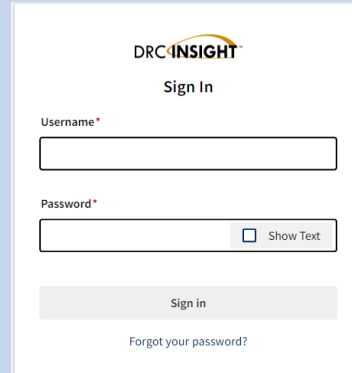
2024 ACCESS for ELLs Test Coordinator Training Workshop - Fall 2023

- [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#); [Part 3](#)
- This presentation created by DESE reviews the format of the assessment, training materials, technology requirements and considerations, test administration procedures, and the latest updates for the current year's administration.

2024 ACCESS for ELLs Data Validation Workshop - March 2024

<https://wida-ams.us>

DRC Insight (WIDA AMS)



DRC INSIGHT
Sign In

Username*

Password*
 Show Text

Sign in

[Forgot your password?](#)

- Student Management and Test Registration
- Additional Materials Ordering
- Add Student to AMS or Remove from Registration
- Initial Score Reports
- Data Validation
- Knowledge Articles

Welcome! What would you like to do today?



Add/Edit Users



Import Management



Manage Students



Manage Registrations



Download Student and Status Reports



Score WIDA Screener Responses



Order and Manage ACCESS Materials



Knowledge Articles



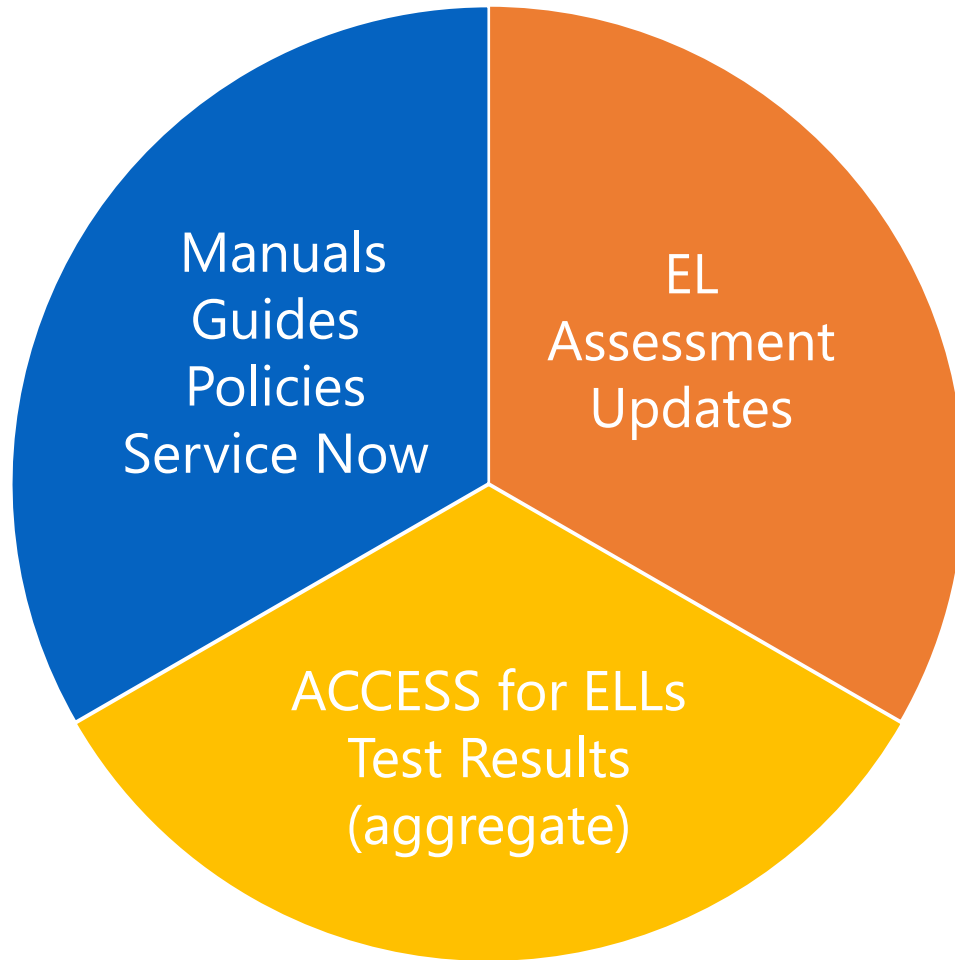
Install and Configure Testing Software

Get Help

Public Test Resources

DESE ACCESS Web Page

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



Navigation: [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 Learners)

ACCESS for ELLs Updates

Background and Student Participation

Federal and state laws require that English learner (EL) students be assessed annually to measure their proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics. In fulfillment of these laws, EL students are required to participate in ACCESS for ELLs tests. ACCESS for ELLs tests 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 for WIDA Alternate ACCESS 2023-2024](#)

ACCESS for ELLs Tests and WIDA Screeners — General Resources

- [Instructions for Creating WIDA and WIDA AMS Personal Accounts](#)
- [Massachusetts State Page on the WIDA Website](#)
- [Materials and Resources Available on the WIDA Website](#)

2024 ACCESS Individual Student Results in [DESE Security Portal](#) DropBox and Edwin

- Round 1 — *without* Student Growth Percentile on ACCESS (SGPA), progress indicator, attainment, or 2025 targets
 - **DropBox** in late June and in **Edwin** in early July.
- Round 2 — *with* Student Growth Percentile on ACCESS (SGPA), progress indicator, attainment, 2025 targets
 - **DropBox** in early August and in **Edwin** in mid-August
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS results *with* attainment and participation indicators
 - **DropBox** in early October and in **Edwin** in mid-October
- Round 3 – final results available in December

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 [DESE ACCESS for ELLs](#)

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](#) under **Manuals, Guides and Workshops.**

[2025 ACCESS for ELLs Test Coordinator Training Workshop – Fall 2024](#). (Available in December 2024).

[DESE ACCESS for ELLs Reporting Webinar – May 2024](#) (updated annually)

[2024 ACCESS for ELLs Data Validation Workshop – March 2024](#) (updated annually)



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

Test Administration Trainings and Certifications – updated September 1 annually (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.
- Test administration training courses are updated every **September 1** and can be found in the WIDA Secure Portal.
- If you took the trainings last year (September 1, 2023 and later) and certified for tests you will administer, you do not need to recertify in 2024-2025.
- You may want to review the training courses, even if you are not required to recertify, 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 for the tests they will administer
4. Review the Checklists from the MA state page of the WIDA website (2025 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](#)

Contact Information

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