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Governor

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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM 26-03

TO: All Local Education Agencies
FROM: Dr. Victor Wakefield, Superintendent of Public Instruction
DATE: January 26, 2026
SUBJECT: WIDA Alternate ACCESS Assessment Cut Scores

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V. Wakefield".

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is required to conduct annual student assessments for all English learners to assess English proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Nevada utilizes WIDA for grades K-12 and the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for English learners with significant cognitive disabilities, in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). WIDA testing is used to both monitor the progress of students and identify when a student may exit the English learner designation.

Based on advice from national experts and feedback from Nevada school leaders, the Department has adopted Proficiency Level 4 (P4) as the cut score for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS exam and exit from English learner services, effective school year 2025-26 (SY25-26). Using P4 makes results easier for families to understand, as they are more easily able to match their child’s test scores with reclassification requirements. The following scale scores indicate when a student should be evaluated for exit from English learner services, aligned to the new P4 standard. No changes have been made to the cut score for the standard WIDA exam.

Grade Level	Composite Scale Score Exit Criteria
K-2	≥ 957
3-5	≥ 958
6-8	≥ 960
9-12	≥ 961

Districts and charter school English Learner with Disabilities teams responsible for determining whether the student is proficient based on the results of their WIDA Alternate ACCESS exam. To do so, teams must comply with the *WIDA Alternate ACCESS Qualification and Reclassification Protocol* attached.

For questions regarding WIDA proficiency levels or the Qualification and Reclassification protocol, please contact Sarah Russell at sarah.russell@doe.nv.gov.