

WIDA[™] ACCESS for ELs

The English Language Proficiency Assessment: ACCESS for ELs 2.0

Overview of WIDA ACCESS for ELs 2.0, Nevada's English Language Proficiency Assessment

The WIDA Consortium provides Nevada's English Proficiency Examination. The WIDA assessment monitors students' progress in acquiring academic English. The WIDA Consortium has 39 states as members which provides an opportunity to compare results across districts and states. This language assessment, called the WIDA ACCESS, does not replace the Nevada English Language Arts tests.

Questions and Answers

Who takes WIDA ACCESS for ELs 2.0?

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 requires that all students identified as "Limited English Proficient" be assessed annually for English Language Proficiency. To identify a student as "Limited English Proficient", parents or guardians are provided a Home Language Survey (HLS) at the time of their pupil's enrollment in a Nevada school. Pupils are identified as potential English learners (ELs) if: a) the pupil first spoke a language other than English; b) the primary language spoken in the home of the pupil is not English; or c) the language most often spoken by the pupil is not English. For students identified as potential ELs from the HLS, schools will administer an English language proficiency screener to determine if the student qualifies as an EL. Results from the assessment must be sent to parents or guardians within thirty days at the beginning of the year, or within two weeks during the school year.

What content areas are assessed?

The WIDA ACCESS for ELs 2.0 assesses the domains of reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension. Each assessment item and task targets at least one of the following five WIDA English Language Development Standards: Social and Instructional Language, Language of Language Arts, Language of Mathematics, Language of Science, and Language of Social Studies.

When is the WIDA ACCESS for ELs 2.0 given?

- The WIDA ACCESS is given during the winter to early spring each year. Please speak with your student's school for more detailed information regarding testing dates.

What is the test design?

- The kindergarten assessment is administered one-on-one in a paper format.
- Grades 1-12 assessments are administered online, with grades 1-3 writing components using paper/pencil.
- Each domain, Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, is administered as a separate test.

What is the approximate testing time?

The kindergarten assessment takes approximately 45 minutes. For grades 1-12 Reading (35 minutes), Listening (40 minutes), Speaking (30 minutes) and Writing (65 minutes) are administered as separate assessments.

What accessibility resources are available?

WIDA has an Accessibility and Accommodations Framework that has been applied to all assessments. This online supplement details available accommodations for each individual assessment.

WIDA Performance Definitions for the Levels of English Language Proficiency

At the given level of English language proficiency, English language learners will process, understand, produce or use:

6 Reaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> specialized or technical language reflective of the content area at grade level; a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse are required by the specified grade level; oral or written communication in English comparable to proficient English peers
5 Bridging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the technical language of the content areas; a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse, including stories, essays, or reports; oral or written language approaching comparability to that of English proficient peers when presented with grade level material
4 Expanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific and some technical language of the content areas; a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in oral discourse or multiple, related paragraphs; oral or written language with minimal phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that do not impede the overall meaning of the communication when presented with oral or written connected discourse with occasional visual and graphic support
3 Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general and some specific language of the content areas; expanded sentences in oral interaction or written paragraphs; oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that may impede the communication but retain much of its meaning when presented with oral or written, narrative or expository descriptions with occasional visual and graphic support
2 Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general language related to the content areas; phrases or short sentences; oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that often impede the meaning of the communication when presented with one to multiple-step commands, directions, questions, or a series of statements with visual and graphic support
1 Entering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas; words, phrases, or chunks of language when presented with one-step commands, directions, WH-questions, or statements with visual and graphic support

How does a student exit WIDA?

The fully English proficient students, ready to exit language instruction educational programs, demonstrate English language proficiency in relation to the full range of classroom demands and the academic language needed for successful educational performance including demonstrating proficiency in:

- Understanding and speaking English
- Reading and comprehending academic English
- Writing in English
- Demonstrating English proficiency in other academic subject area

Automatic Exiting

Students that score a 6.0 composite (overall) score on the ACCESS for ELLs test automatically attain an ELP 6 language level and will no longer be classified as and English Language Learner.

Where can I find more information?

- [WIDA Official Website](#)
- [WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards](#)
- [Nevada Department of Education WIDA Website](#)

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