

Purpose

This WIDA Alternate ACCESS Qualification and Reclassification Protocol is intended for educational teams supporting students who fulfill the following three indicators:

- English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities,
- Have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and
- Are precluded from equitably taking the WIDA ACCESS assessment with accommodations based on the severity of their cognitive disabilities.

Pre-Assessment Determination

For English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities, an English Learner with Disabilities (ELWD) team will determine if the student should take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS. The team includes:

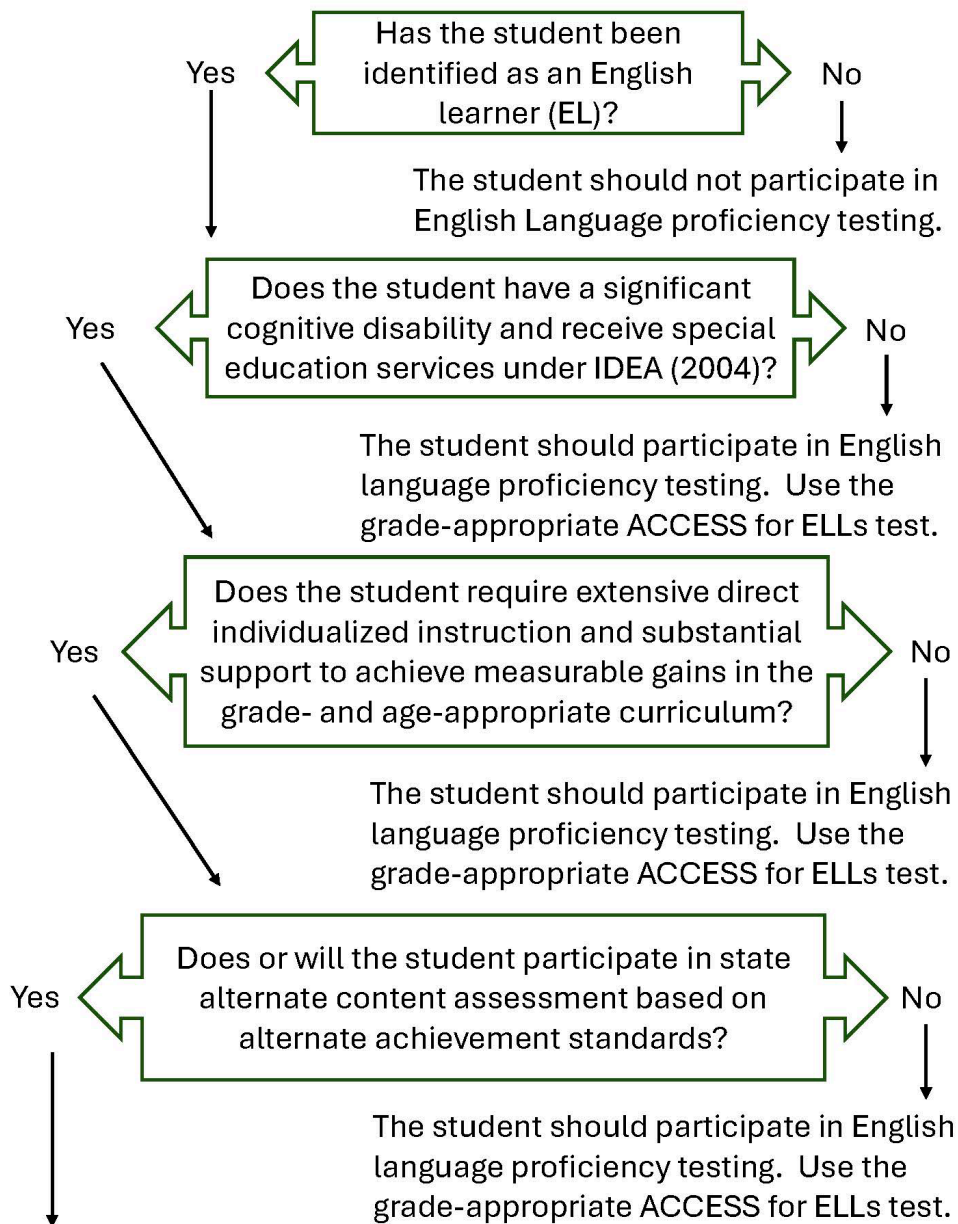
- EL designee¹,
- Special education case manager,
- Parent/guardian,
- Classroom teacher, and
- Site administrator.

The ELWD team decides if the WIDA Alternate ACCESS is the most appropriate way to assess English language proficiency for the student. The ELWD team should use the Alternate ACCESS Participation Decision Tree found on page 22 of the [WIDA Accessibility-Accommodations Manual](#). This decision must occur prior to the annual ACCESS administration. This decision could occur during an annual IEP meeting but is not required to.

For students in grades 3 and above, the ELWD team must also decide if the student will take the Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA). For grades 1 and 2, this requirement does not apply.

¹ ELAD/TESL endorsed or expertise in second language acquisition and knowledge of the student's language proficiency level needs who is authorized by the district/LEA to make EL assessment decisions

WIDA Alternate ACCESS Participation Decision Tree



The student is eligible to participate in testing with WIDA Alternate ACCESS.

Assessment participation decisions must be made by an IEP team, not an individual. Check with your state education agency on specific criteria for identifying ELs with significant cognitive disabilities.

Always follow state-specific accessibility and accommodation policies for English Language proficiency tests. State guidance may vary from the recommendations in this document.

WIDA Alternate ACCESS Participation Decision Tree – Narrative

The below content is a narrative version of the WIDA Alternate ACCESS Participation Decision Tree on Page 2.

Question #1: Has the student been identified as an English learner (EL)?

Yes: Proceed to Question #2.

No: The student should not participate in English language proficiency testing.

Question #2: Does the student have a significant cognitive disability and receive special education services under IDEA(2004)?

Yes: Proceed to Question #3.

No: The student should participate in English language proficiency testing. Use the grade-appropriate ACCESS for ELLs test.

Question #3: Does the student require extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial support to achieve measurable gains in the grade- and age-appropriate curriculum?

Yes: Proceed to Question #4.

No: The student should participate in English language proficiency testing. Use the grade-appropriate ACCESS for ELLs test.

Question #4: Does or will the student participate in state alternate content assessment based on alternate achievement standards?

Yes: The student is eligible to participate in testing with WIDA Alternate ACCESS.

No: The student should participate in English language proficiency testing. Use the grade-appropriate ACCESS for ELLs test.

Assessment participation decisions must be made by an IEP team, not an individual. Check with your state education agency on specific criteria for identifying ELs with significant cognitive disabilities.

Always follow state-specific accessibility and accommodation policies for English language proficiency tests. State guidance may vary from the recommendations in this document.

Determination Documentation

The ELWD team completes the WIDA Alt-ACCESS Qualification Determination form (see page 3 of this document). Based on district/LEA guidance, the team should then determine if the form should be filed in the student's EL file and/or the student's Special Education file.

Test Administration

The English learner with disability is administered the WIDA Alternate ACCESS during the annual ELPA testing window.

Post-Assessment Determination

When the school receives the WIDA assessment results, the ELWD team will review them. If the composite score is at or above the exit criteria listed below, the student's ELWD team will decide whether the student should be exited from EL services. The exit criteria are as follows:

Grade Level	Exit Criteria
K-2	≥ 959
3-5	≥ 958
6-8	≥ 964
9-12	≥ 967

Complete WIDA Alternative ACCESS Reclassification Determination Form

If the student is reclassified as English language proficient and is exited from EL services, the ELWD team will complete the WIDA Alternate ACCESS Reclassification Determination form (see page 4 of this document). Based on district/LEA guidance, the team should then determine if the form should be filed in the student's EL file and/or the student's Special Education file.

The LEA will take the following steps to update the student's EL status:

- Update the student's EL status to Exited-ALT in the student information system (SIS) prior to October 1. Exited EL students must not be designated as a current EL in the SIS on October 1 enrollment count.
- Designate the student as Monitor-Year 1 in the SIS.
- Provide a Parent/Guardian Notification Letter of English Learner Reclassification Determination.

WIDA Alternate ACCESS Qualification Determination

Date: _____

School	District
Student Name	Student ID
Date of Birth	Grade

Has the EL Designee, in consultation with the special education case manager, parent/guardian, classroom teacher, and site administrator followed the Alternate ACCESS Participation Decision Tree to determine that the student will participate in the WIDA Alternate ACCESS language proficiency assessment?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Disability Category: _____

ELWD Team members

Role	Name	Signature
EL Designee		
Special Education Case Manager		
Parent/Guardian		
Classroom Teacher		
Site Administrator		

WIDA Alternative ACCESS Reclassification Determination Form

School	District
Student Name	Student ID
Date of Birth	Grade

WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Composite Score: _____

Does this student qualify for English learner reclassification?

Yes ☐ No; continue EL services ☐

ELWD Team members

Role	Name	Signature
EL Designee		
Special Education Case Manager		
Parent/Guardian		
Classroom Teacher		
Site Administrator		