



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

December 5, 2017

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
Route To: District Bilingual/ESL/ELS Points of Contact, District Test Coordinators, *ESEA* Project Coordinators, District Technology Coordinators, School Business Administrators  
From: Karen L. Campbell, Acting Chief Accountability Officer  
Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services  
Jeffrey Hauger, Director  
Office of Assessments

## Updates Regarding the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 English Language Proficiency Test Requirements

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing updated information to assist school districts as they prepare for testing with the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English language learners (ACCESS for ELLs 2.0) language proficiency assessment.

### Background

The enactment of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* in December 2015 expanded the accountability requirements to include the performance of English language learners (ELLs) toward English proficiency. Under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, this requirement was limited to only those school districts that received Title III funds. Specifically, [ESSA](#) requires states to demonstrate an increase in the percentage of ELLs making progress in achieving English language proficiency (*ESSA §1111(c)4(a)(III)(ii)*) and that each state must demonstrate that local educational agencies in the state will provide for an annual assessment of English proficiency of all ELLs in the schools (*ESSA §1111(b)(2)(g)(i)(ii)(G)*).

### Requirement Updates

All school districts in New Jersey were required by *ESSA* to administer the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 language proficiency assessment to all ELLs in grades K-12 for the first time during the 2016-17 school year. Starting in the 2018-19 school year, students' demonstrated progress from the 2016-17 administration to the 2017-18 administration will be used to determine schools' and districts' performance on the English language proficiency indicator in the statewide accountability system. To help school districts prepare for this school year's testing cycle, the [New Jersey ACCESS for ELLs webpage](#) provides important 2017-18 administration dates. Please review the document with appropriate staff to plan for the test administration.

### Additional Context

New Jersey is a member of the WIDA consortium. WIDA is a nonprofit cooperative with a purpose of developing standards and assessments that promote educational equity for English language learners.

New Jersey's membership in WIDA enables school districts to receive the following resources and services:

- ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Annual Summative Assessment;
- Professional Learning;
- Technical Assistance;
- Educational Resources;

- English Language Development (ELD) Standards and Can Do Descriptors;
- Client Services;
- WIDA Screener; and
- WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT), the online English language development screening test.

Note that as part of the statewide assessment program, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is provided to districts at no cost for the 2017-18 school year.

#### **Technical Assistance**

- Visit webpage for [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0](#)
- WIDA information on [preparing for test administration](#)
- For questions regarding the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test ordering and administration protocol, please contact the test vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), at (855) 787-9615 or [WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com).
- For questions regarding training, contact WIDA at (866) 276-7735 or [help@wida.us](mailto:help@wida.us).

For other questions, contact the NJDOE's Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at (609) 376-9080 or email [ell@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:ell@doe.state.nj.us).

c:       Members, State Board of Education  
           Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner  
           NJDOE Staff  
           Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
           Garden State Coalition of Schools  
           NJ LEE Group