

2/12/18

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will be taking the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 between January 29, 2018 and March 23, 2018. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 **measures** your student's progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing English language skills. Later this spring, your student will receive an Individual Student Report that provides information about how well he or she is progressing in the English language.

Please review the following policies with your child before testing:


■ **Electronic Devices**—If your student is found with ANY electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones and smart phones, at any time during testing OR during breaks, his or her test section will be invalidated, which means it will not be scored. The best practice is for students to leave electronic devices at home or in their lockers on the day of testing.

■ **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test section (for an appointment, illness, etc.), he or she WILL NOT be allowed to complete that test section. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on the make-up day.

To learn more about ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 a helpful *Parent Handout* is available exclusively online (<https://www.wida.us/membership/states/Florida.aspx>) under the Parent Information tab in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, Haitian Creole French, Hmong, Spanish, and Vietnamese. If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Shawn Herring at 386-647-4500.

Thank you for supporting your student as he or she prepares for the test.

Sincerely,



Laura Williams

SMS Assistant Principal

## WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

### What is ACCESS for ELLs 2.0?

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is an English *language proficiency* assessment for Grades K–12. The test is administered every year to help school districts monitor the English *language development* of students identified as *English language learners*.

### What is the purpose of the test?

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 measures students' abilities to understand and produce English used within school settings. The four sections of the test are Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

### Why does my child have to take the test?

Your child is identified as an *English language learner*. Your child will take the test every year until his/her scores meet the criteria to exit the language support program. Contact your child's school for more information on how your child was identified as an English language learner.

### When will my child take the test?

Every state sets a time frame for schools to administer ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. Schools schedule when students will take the four sections of the test during the testing time frame. Contact your child's school for more specific information on when your child is scheduled to take ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

### How are the test scores used?

Scores from ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 can be used in many ways. Parents can use the scores to advocate for their child. Teachers use the scores to plan instruction and assessments. Districts use the scores to evaluate their language support programs, to monitor student progress in acquiring English, and to determine if a student is eligible to exit an English language support program. Scores are also used to meet federal and state accountability requirements.

### Questions to Ask

Parents can use the following questions to obtain more information about their child's testing experience:

- How will my child take the test?
- Who will give my child ACCESS for ELLs 2.0?
- Where will my child take the test?
- Did someone from the school explain the test to my son/daughter?
- Are all of my child's teachers aware that he/she is taking the test?
- If my child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), what accommodations will be provided to him/her during the test?
- When and how will the scores be shared with me?

Contact your child's school if you have questions about ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

### Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs

Students in Kindergarten take a paper format of the test which engages students with cards, books, and grade-appropriate test items. Students at this grade level take the test individually with a test administrator.

### Key Terms to Know

*English language learners* are students who are eligible to receive support at school with the English language.

*Language proficiency* is a measurement of where students are in the process of language development.

*Language development* is a process that takes time. Students move along this process at different rates.