

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS (ELs)

Introduction

Irvington School District must annually assess the English language proficiency of **ALL** English Learners (ELs), as required by Federal and State Regulations, in grades kindergarten through grade twelve to determine language acquisition growth as well as placement of ELs for the following school year. This also includes identified students whose parents have refused language support services (completion of Parent Waiver Request Form).

WIDA ACCESS – EL Proficiency Exam

During the Spring semester, all identified ELs take the WIDA-ACCESS for ELs. It is a standards-based, English language proficiency test, designed to measure ELs' social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies within the school context across the four language domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

The data collected from this assessment is used to evaluate, not only ELs' performance (language proficiency), but also reported to the New Jersey State Education Department to determine district's Annual Measurement Achievement Objective (AMAO) growth under No Child Left Behind – Title III – LEP accountability calculation.

Students who have formally exited ESL services are not administered the ACCESS annual assessment.

District/State Assessment Participation

ELs are expected to participate in all district and state assessments with recommended accommodations. However, educators should be aware of the following exemptions:

- ACCESS for ELs: ELs who exit ESL services before the beginning of the testing window and EL students with a medically documented absence who are unable to participate in make-up testing are not required to take the English proficiency test.
- PARCC: Only ELs in elementary and middle school in grades three through eight, who entered the United States **after July 1 of the current school year**, may be exempt from participating in the ELA portion of the PARCC assessments.
- Please note the PARCC provision does not apply to EL high school students. Newly arrived EL high school students **must** participate in the PARCC ELA assessment with the appropriate EL test accommodations.

Testing Accommodations for State and District Assessments

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Irvington district is required to offer accommodations to ELs who are currently receiving services in a program operated in accordance with the approved district EL Plan.

These accommodations may include, but are not limited to

- changes in the presentation of the assessment;
- changes in the environment in which the assessment is administered;
- time allowed for the assessment, up to time and a half;
- or additional materials or equipment to be used by students during the assessment.

References

- *N.J.A.C. 6A:15, BILINGUAL EDUCATION*
6A:15-1.10 Bilingual, ESL, and English language services program enrollment, assessment, exit, and reentry
<http://www.njtesol-njbe.org/announcements/ELAccommodations.pdf>
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/policy/PARCCELLsFAQ.htm>