

Dear Families:

Wisconsin's English learners in grades K-12 will be participating in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment during the February 22 - April 30, testing window. The ACCESS for ELLs is a test that gives schools and families information about how skilled students are in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. ACCESS for ELLs is required by both State (Wisconsin State Statute s. 115.96 (1)) and Federal (20 U.S. Code s. 6311) Law. When students take State assessments it can help schools determine the impact the pandemic has had on a student's academic achievement. Testing students in an equitable way is important because clearly knowing the performance of all students is the first step in closing achievement gaps. We must know exactly which learning gaps exist, the size of the learning gaps, and how long the gaps have existed. Our school is scheduled to take the ACCESS for ELLs assessment _____.

In-person assessment is the only method we can use for state assessments. The company who produces the test has no remote (virtual) testing option available. Taking on-site testing ensures standardized administration that includes equitable access to technology and the best testing environments, test security, and validity.

We are taking every precaution to ensure a safe testing environment. We are following procedures recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health Services (DHS) including social distancing, flexible schedules and the frequent sanitization of student spaces and equipment. Students should be sure to bring your computer, charging cord, and if desired, a mouse. Sanitized headphones will be provided.

The ACCESS for ELLs tests students identified as English Learners (ELs) annually to determine their level of English language proficiency (ELP) and ensure that they are progressing in achieving full English proficiency. One or more subtests may be administered daily during our selected time frame. Please make sure students are healthy before sending them to school. Keep students home who are ill or have been exposed to COVID-19. Students not in school on testing days will be scheduled for a make-up test prior to the close of the testing window.

Enclosed is an *ACCESS for ELLs Information for Families* brochure which gives more information about the assessment including its purpose, what scores will be provided, and how the scores will be used. Performance on the ACCESS for ELLs will not affect student grades. Please encourage students to take the test seriously and do the best they can. The results of these tests will be used to help school staff make determinations regarding planning, instruction, and services to best support students.

Wisconsin State law allows parents/guardians to choose whether or not to have their child participate in state-mandated testing. If you choose to decline testing for the 20-21 school year for safety reasons, please [CLICK HERE](#), and complete the form. If you have any questions regarding the state assessment system and the specific assessments please contact Tim Peterson, Director of Assessment, at tpeterson2@madison.k12.wi.us

Thank you,



Tim Peterson, Director of Assessment