

Dear Families:

Wisconsin's English learners in grades K-12 will be participating in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment during the December 1, 2021 – January 28, 2022 testing window. The ACCESS for ELLs is a test that gives schools and families information about students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. Our school is scheduled to take the ACCESS for ELLs assessment _____.

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 assessments, it can help schools determine the academic supports or challenges students may need. Knowing the performance of all students is the first step in closing achievement gaps.

The ACCESS for ELLs is given annually to tests students identified as English Learners (ELs) in order 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.

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 your child 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.

State assessments, including ACCESS for ELLs, must be given to students in-person, in school. When tests are given in school, it ensures students receive the same instructions, have access to the same technology, while also providing the best testing environment, test security, and validity. Additionally, the company who produces the test has no remote (virtual) testing option available.

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 physical distancing, flexible schedules, and the frequent sanitization of student spaces and equipment.

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.

If you have any questions regarding the state assessment system, or specific assessments, please email Tim Peterson, Director of Assessment, at tpeterson2@madison.k12.wi.us

Thank you,



Tim Peterson, Ed.D.
Director of Assessment
Madison Metropolitan School District