




PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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September 30, 2015

To: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

From: William J. Hussey, Director 
Exceptional Children Division

Re: ACCESS for ELL students with IEPs

The new ACCESS assessment for English Language Learners (ELL) students will begin in February 2016. The window for assessment will be February 1- March 11, 2016. In preparation for this new online assessment, the N.C. Testing and Accountability Division has requested the following information be shared with LEAs and Charter Schools.

ACCESS is an online assessment that includes read aloud in a human voice on a CD or the computer. Additional accommodations that are allowed are Braille or a read aloud face-to-face. Both contracted and uncontracted Braille are available.

Should the rare instance occur that a student needs face-to-face read aloud, and cannot utilize the computer read aloud function, two test administrators will be required to administer the assessment. Accommodations for this assessment, as in all assessments, should be routine practice.

There are many accessibility tools built into the assessment that are available to all students. It is requested that all IEPs have the proper accommodations documented by December 1, 2015. Guidance documents were provided to LEA Test Coordinators for this assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact Ronda Layman at (919-807-4059) or ronda.layman@dpi.nc.gov.

WJH/DM/RL

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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