

Information on the WIDA Alternate ACCESS



What is the WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is a test for English learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It measures how students are developing their English skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing, and is based on the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards. These standards are connected to what students learn in school, and they help make sure students build the language skills they need to fully participate in classroom learning.



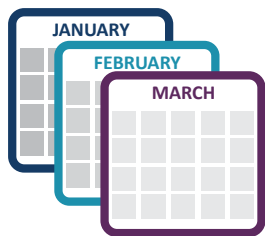
Who takes the WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

ELs enrolled in grades K–12 in Minnesota public schools who have Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs) and meet specific eligibility requirements take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS.



Why do students take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS allows students to show how their English skills are developing at school. Teachers use the results to understand how to support each student's language growth. The results also help show when a student has reached a high enough level of English proficiency to no longer need EL support services. Schools use the results to see how well they are meeting the needs of EL learners. Families can use the results to understand how their student is progressing and how to support them at home.



When does the WIDA Alternate ACCESS happen?

Students take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS every year until they reach a high enough level of English proficiency to no longer need EL support services. The test is usually given between late January and late March.



How do students take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is a paper test. Students will take the WIDA Alternate ACCESS individually with a teacher.