

Dear Colleagues in Education:

This is a message from the Student Assessment Division at the Illinois State Board of Education. If you have additional questions about this note, please call our Assessment Division at 217-782-4823.

ACCESS for ELLs™ is the Illinois-approved language proficiency test. All students identified as ELL must take ACCESS. This includes students in kindergarten through 12th grade, regardless if that student is in a state approved program or not. For more information on the test, please go to www.isbe.net/assessment - click on ACCESS under the "Resources" section.

Since ACCESS for ELLs™ has numerous components to it and requires that certain sections to be administered individually, ISBE allows a 6-week window for the administration of the entire test. The reading, writing, and listening sections are administered in a group during a 3-week window. The speaking section and kindergarten test are administered individually during the full 6-week window. The reading, writing, and listening sections will be returned to Metritech before the speaking and kindergarten tests are completed. Scores will be returned as soon as possible in May.

2007 ACCESS Dates

January 16 – February 23, 2007

Reading, Writing, Listening

(Grades 1-12) January 16 – February 2, 2007

Speaking

(Grades 1-12) January 16 – February 23, 2007

Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking (Kindergarten) January 16 – February 23, 2007

WAIVERS

Because the testing window could conflict with most high schools' semester exam administrations, ISBE Student Assessment will allow for those individual schools where the main test window schedule conflicts with school schedules or other school calendar issues to apply for a modified testing window waiver. District superintendents will have to apply to ISBE for permission to change the schedule in individual schools. Unlike ISAT waivers where the entire district must follow the same testing window, ACCESS can be administered on different windows in individual schools. The waiver will be posted in May 2006, on www.isbe.net/assessment - the deadline for the waiver application will be November 1, 2006. (ISAT will be administered March 12 - March 23, 2007.)

The waiver offers a choice of two schedule options:

Modified 2007 ACCESS Dates

Option 1

January 22 – March 2, 2007

Reading, Writing, Listening

(Grades 1-12) January 22 – February 9, 2007

Speaking
(Grades 1-12) January 22 – March 2, 2007
Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking (Kindergarten) January 22 – March 2, 2007

**Modified 2007 ACCESS Dates
Option 2**

January 29 – March 9, 2007
Reading, Writing, Listening
(Grades 1-12) January 29 – February 16, 2007
Speaking
(Grades 1-12) January 29 – March 9, 2007
Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking (Kindergarten) January 29 – March 9, 2007