

ACCESS for ELLs[®] (Series 302) 2013-2014 Changes

Beginning this testing year, 2013-2014, the **Listening Test** of ACCESS for ELLs, will be media-based. This means that all Listening items for all tiers and grades 1-12 are prerecorded. Rather than listening to the test administrator read the scripted items, the students will listen to a recording. This allows for students to listen to more authentic language use, such as conversations involving more than one speaker. Test items will be administered via audio from a CD or streamed online via a secure password-protected site.

ACCESS for ELLs test materials will include one CD for every 8 test forms at each grade and tier. This CD can be played on a standard CD player or a computer with a CD/DVD drive with speakers. As an additional option, the Listening Test can be streamed online from a secure MetriTech, Inc. website. The table below indicates the necessary minimum computer requirements for streaming the audio.

Computer Requirements

	Apple Macintosh	Windows PC	Apple iPad	Android Tablet
Operating System	OS/X 10.5 or greater	Windows XP SP2 or greater	IOS 6.0 or greater	Android 4.0 or greater
Browser	Apple Safari; Mozilla Firefox; Google Chrome	Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or greater; Apple Safari; Mozilla Firefox; Google Chrome	Apple Safari	Android Browser

Sample Listening items can be found on the MetriTech, Inc. website that can be used for test administrator review and to check equipment and sound levels prior to testing. These samples can also be shared with students to familiarize them with the new format prior to testing. The website URL is <https://www.metritech.com/wida/listening/login.aspx>.

The Listening section in *Test Administrator Script* booklet includes changes to reflect the new delivery method. The Listening section will contain scripting for the following: (1) introduction to the Listening Test; (2) script for guiding students through the practice items; (3) transcript of the recorded practice items; and (3) track listings and instructions on playing and pausing tracks. The *Test Administrator Script* will *not* contain the transcript of the recorded test items. The written transcript of the actual items will not be provided except in rare instances when a test administrator read script is a necessary accommodation documented in a student's IEP or 504 Plan. In these cases, a copy of the appropriate *Recording Script* can be ordered from MetriTech, Inc.

Beginning October 7, 2013, additional information and training will be available on the WIDA Test Administrator course on the WIDA Website at www.wida.us.

Also starting this year, rather than providing a fixed amount of time for the **Reading test** (35 minutes) and extra time allowable (5 minutes), the timing guidelines provide an overall range of how long the test should take (35-45 minutes) and allow educators more discretion. Test materials have been updated to reflect this change, and the guidelines in the Test Administration Manual have been updated to the following:

The Reading Test is designed to take no more than 35-45 minutes. In rare situations, test administrators may use their professional judgment in determining whether a student(s) needs additional time to complete the test. Test administrators may consider the following when determining how much extra time to provide:

- Are students working productively?
- Will extending the testing session over the recommended 45 minutes benefit students?
- Is the amount of extra time reasonable?

Note that the test administration time does not include time for convening students, taking attendance, distributing and collecting test materials, explaining test directions, or completing practice items.

Please note that that this change does not affect students with IEPs/504 Plans who require an extended time accommodation.

There are **no changes to the test administration procedures for the Speaking and Writing domains** of the assessment.