

December 22, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We appreciate the investment you make in your child(ren)'s education and want to share with you some information about federally required assessments, specifically the ACCESS for ELLs®. Federal law requires the Illinois State Board of Education to administer assessments to all students identified as English learners (ELs) who attend public schools, including charter schools, in the state.

The ACCESS test is the annual assessment for all K-12 ELs in the state of Illinois. ACCESS scores are used to assess student progress and proficiency in English as well as to help determine placement in the EL program the following school year. In addition, the results of this test can be used toward the English proficiency requirement for the Seal of Biliteracy for your high school student(s). Your multilingual child(ren) is(are) required by federal law to take the ACCESS for ELLs assessment during the testing window from January 17 until March 5, 2024.

We have advised districts to consult the [Illinois WIDA webpage](#), specifically the ACCESS Online or Paper administration checklists, and the "ACCESS for ELLs District and School Test Coordinator Manual," which provides information to ensure that testing is equitable, accessible, and safe for all.

Your child(ren)'s school or district will communicate its plan and protocols for administering the test to you in the coming weeks. It is very important that all students do the best they can on the assessment, so that your district can properly and effectively serve them in the 2024-25 school year.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in providing the best opportunities for your multilingual child(ren)!

Sincerely,

Angela Foxall, Director of Assessment
Joanne Clyde, Director of Multilingual