WIDA ALTERNATE ACCESS

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS **meets New Mexico's federal requirement** to provide an annual assessment of academic English language proficiency for ELLs with **the most significant cognitive disabilities** as designated through their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Who takes WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment is administered to English learners with the ***most significant cognitive disabilities***, whose special education IEP designates it as the appropriate English-language proficiency assessment. **This test should NOT be administered to students who have exited EL status**. For additional guidance, view the **WIDA Alternate ACCESS Participation Decision Tree**.

What does the test measure?

WIDA Alternate ACCESS measures a student's overall proficiency and their progress towards English language proficiency in four domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

When is the test given?

The test is given in the early spring of every school year. Testing dates are on the **Assessment Calendar**.

How is the test administered?

- WIDA Alternate ACCESS is a large-print, paper-based test administered individually to a student.
- Each domain is administered separately with each domain taking up to 30 minutes to administer.
- Test time may vary depending on the student's grade and communication mode.

What are the Proficiency Levels?

1 Entering	2 Emerging	3 Developing	4 Expanding	5 Bridging

Prior to **2023–2024**, the overall score of **≥P1 to exit EL status**. Following the new **WIDA Alternate ACCESS standard setting** 2023–2024, students must achieve an overall composite score of **≥3 to exit EL status for WIDA Alternate ACCESS**. Please note that the proficiency levels above have been updated by WIDA in SY 2023–2024 to 1–5 as indicated above. Visit **WIDA Alternate Proficiency Level Descriptors** to see more details for each language domain.

Where can I access reports?

School personnel can access reports that are found on the secured WIDA site on the **WIDA AMS** portal. Schools are required to provide individual student reports to parents and guardians.

For more information on the WIDA Alternate ACCESS, please visit the PED WIDA ACCESS Resources page and the NM WIDA ACCESS site.