



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 2, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent *WAP*
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: 2021 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs -
MEMO #COVID-19-140

At this time, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) has not modified any requirements to states related to the expectation that school districts assess all English language learners (ELLs) for this school year. Therefore, the 2021 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window will be open **February 1, 2021** through **March 19, 2021**.

Districts providing in-person instruction and hybrid instruction will need to make their best efforts to assess as many students as possible, and as safely as possible, while following local and state COVID-19-related directives. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will support districts through this challenge of administering a significant, large-scale assessment.

For districts providing learning at a distance, MDE will reapply to USED for assessment flexibilities around required WIDA assessments for students who have not been participating in in-person instruction at their schools. While MDE does not support districts returning students to school buildings solely for assessment purposes, we are obligated to follow federal requirements.

MDE has begun to release resources through its [Spotlight](#) newsletter to aid districts in planning and preparing for testing. For answers to questions pertaining to the administration of the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, please contact the call center at 877-560-8378 or send an email to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788