



ALTERNATE ACCESS FOR ELLS

The purpose of this document is intended to help educators become familiar with features of the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment in order to make decisions regarding a student's participation in this assessment. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is a large scale test of English language proficiency of English Learners (ELs) who have, or function as if they have, a significant cognitive disability. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is a product of a collaborative effort by the multi-state WIDA Consortium and has been developed based on the WIDA Alternate English Language proficiency (ELP) levels which were designed to increase the sensitivity of the measure for these students and give them a chance to demonstrate what they can do with language. A copy of the draft Alternate Model Performance Indicators outlining these levels can be downloaded at www.wida.us/alternateaccess.

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB; 2001) requires that all students identified as ELs be assessed annually for English language proficiency, including students who receive special education services. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA; 2004) also mandates that students with disabilities participate in state-wide and district-wide assessment programs, including alternate assessments based on Alternate Achievement Standards with appropriate accommodations (in Michigan, this includes MI-Access: Functional Independence, Supported Independence, Participation), when it is documented in their Individualized Education Programs (IEP). For this reason, World-Class Instruction Design and Assessment (WIDA) created the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs to meet federal accountability requirements

and to provide educators with a measure sensitive to English language proficiency growth of ELs with significant cognitive disabilities.

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an individually administered paper and pencil test. It is intended only for ELs in grades 1 – 12 who have, or function as if they have, significant cognitive disabilities severe enough to prevent meaningful participation in ACCESS for ELLs assessment. Students with disabilities who can demonstrate progress in their language development by taking ACCESS for ELLs with accommodations should do so. IEP Teams must consider the following general participation criteria to decide whether the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test would be an appropriate assessment for their student:

1. The student has been classified as ELL.
2. The student has, or functions as if they have, a cognitive disability and is eligible for special education services under IDEA.
3. The student is working towards alternate achievement standards aligned with Michigan's academic standards, and is participating in Michigan's alternate accountability assessment, MI-Access.

The following information and guide is designed to aid districts in determining which students should take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Please contact the Office of Standards and Assessment at (877) 560-8378 with any questions you may have. You should also visit WIDA's website at www.wida.us and login in order to access the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs sample items.



2013 ALTERNATE ACCESS FOR ELLS TEST OVERVIEW

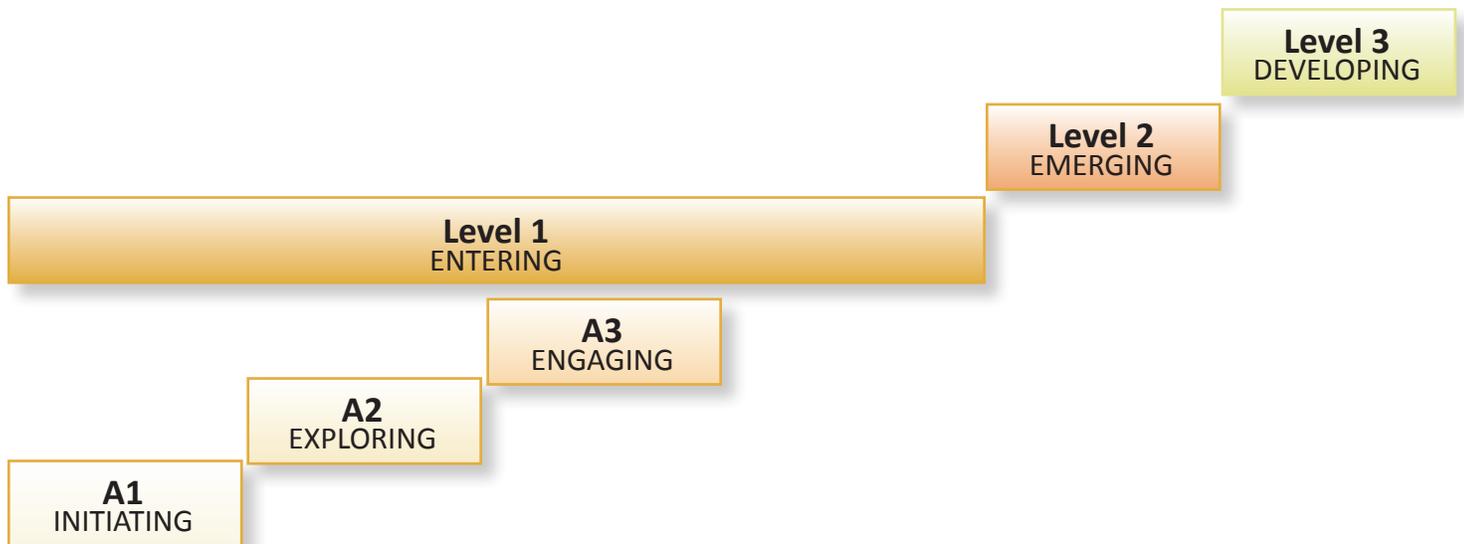
<i>Grade-Level Clusters</i>	<i>1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12</i>
<i>Language Domains</i>	<i>Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing</i>
<i>Task Format</i>	<i>Selected response (Listening, Reading) Constructed response (Writing, Speaking)</i>
<i>Tasks based on</i>	<i>Alternate Model Performance Indicators (AMPs)</i>
<i>Standards</i>	<i>Social and Instructional Language Language of Language Arts Language of Mathematics Language of Science</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>Individual</i>
<i>Scoring</i>	<i>All sections are hand scored by the test administrator</i>
<i>Accommodations</i>	<i>Individualized instructional supports that are used in everyday classroom instruction may be used to meet individual student needs</i>
<i>Alternate English Language Proficiency (ELP) levels</i>	<i>A1-A3, 1-3 (level 3 in writing only)</i>

In addition to the above information, districts should know that the testing window for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is the same as the general ACCESS for ELLs. More information about how to order materials and how to administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs can be found in the WIDA Frequently Asked Questions document found at www.michigan.gov/elpa.

Below you will find the proficiency levels for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. For the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, it is important to note that there are six proficiency levels: A1, A2, A3, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. These are different from the general ACCESS for ELLs, extending to a range that precedes that of the first level, Level 1: Entering. Students being assessed by the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will still be held to the same exit criteria as described in the Office of Field Services Entrance & Exit Protocol document. Please contact the Office of Field Services at 517-373-6066. Districts should keep in mind that although the ultimate goal is for students to exit from EL services, educators should focus on students' continuing English language development progress.



ALTERNATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVEL



PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES: WHO CAN TAKE THE ALTERNATE ACCESS FOR ELLs?

- IEP Teams decide whether students who are classified as ELs with significant cognitive disabilities participate in the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs or the general ACCESS for ELLs.
- The following criteria were designed to help IEP Teams determine whether the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an appropriate test for students.
- All of the following participation criteria must be met to administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs to a student:

Participation Criteria	Yes	No	Explanation of Yes or No Response
The student is classified as an EL according to Michigan's criteria and protocol. Refer to the Office of Field Services Entrance & Exit Protocol for more information.			
The student has, or functions as if they have, a <u>significant cognitive disability</u> and receives special education programs or services under IDEA (2004).			



Participation Criteria	Yes	No	Explanation of Yes or No Response
<p>The student’s IEP Team determined the student <u>will not participate in assessments based on general education standards (MEAP, MEAP-Access, or MME).</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodations and modifications within the general education curriculum were considered. • The student will be working towards alternate achievement standards. • Participation decisions are not based on social, cultural, or economic factors. 			
<p>The student is or will be participating in one of Michigan’s alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards (MI-Access: Functional Independence, Supported Independence, Participation).</p>			

*For more information, please visit: <http://www.wida.us/assessment/alternateaccess.aspx>

IEP TEAM CONSIDERATIONS

1. IEP Teams should also consider a student’s previous test taking history when making a decision about selection of the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.
 - a. Students with a history of taking MI-Access Functional Independence may take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs or the general ACCESS for ELLs.
 - b. Students with a history of taking MI-Access Supported Independence may or may not find the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs appropriate. In order to help educators better determine this, please review the sample items found in this document for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.
 - c. Students with a history of taking MI-Access Participation may or may not find the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs appropriate. In order to help educators better determine this, please review the sample items for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. If the IEP Team determines that the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs isn’t appropriate, please apply for a waiver request from the Office of Standards & Assessment.