



2023 Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment is getting a revamp! This important redesign work, which will involve a field test of the revamped assessment, is necessary for several reasons. These are:

- to expand the assessment to align more fully to the WIDA standards
- to include kindergarten students in the range of grade levels assessed by the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, as required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (The current version of the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is only administered to students in grades 1-12.)
- to help create a brand-new alternate screener for a more appropriate identification process for potential English learners who may also have significant cognitive disabilities

Participation

During the field test, all students in grades 1-12 who are identified in the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Secure Site to take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs during the pre-identification/initial material barcode window in December 2022 will automatically receive a field test booklet and corresponding materials on February 7, 2023. The district will also receive an estimated quantity of kindergarten materials. The district will also receive an estimated quantity of kindergarten materials. Students who will participate in the field test will first be required to take their regularly scheduled WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment; they may then complete the field test after they complete their regular WIDA Alternate ACCESS test.

Test coordinators are encouraged to work with their special education colleagues to identify which kindergarten students may be eligible to take the field test. Educators can use the WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Selection Guidance document available at www.michigan.gov/wida to make determinations for kindergarten.

We understand that any additional testing beyond the regularly scheduled minimum can be a burden. We hope you will encourage students to participate in this field test of the revamped assessment, as it will help build the best possible tool for students in the future.

Field Test Window

The field test window opens on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 and closes on Friday, April 7, 2023. This window overlaps with the regular WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window, which is scheduled to open on Monday, February 6, 2023 and to close on Friday, March 24, 2023.

The OEAA urges districts to provide as much time as possible between assessments to reduce the effects of testing fatigue among students.

Training

In order to administer the field test, test administrators will need to complete the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring training course in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#). The training course includes information and related quiz questions on the field test, in addition to content specific to the regular Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. All educators administering the regular Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are required to complete this training course on a yearly basis, so they will be fully prepared to administer the field test once it becomes available.

Materials and Administration

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test materials will have unique visual markers to indicate their unique purpose. Field test materials will have:

- different colors than the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
- spiral bindings on the test booklets
- the words “field test” on every cover
- an image of the field test logo, identifiable as a service dog

These markers will help keep regular test and field test materials separate. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and



Scoring training course in the WIDA Secure Portal will provide more information on how to store, use, and return field test materials.

The field test will be similar in length to the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test. Each of the four domain tests for the regular Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing) can take up to 20 minutes to administer, for a total test time of 80 minutes. Keep in mind that depending on the student, test times can be considerably shorter.

Additional Information

Additional information about the field test will be shared in the [OEAA Spotlight Newsletter](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/spotlight-newsletter) (<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/spotlight-newsletter>) when it is available. Additional questions can be sent by email to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov.