



MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Education Directors
Corporation Test Coordinators
Title III Directors

FROM: Becky Bowman, Director of Special Education
Dr. Michele Walker, Director of Student Assessment
Charlie Geier, Director of Early Learning and Intervention

DATE: October 6, 2014

RE: English Language Proficiency Assessment Requirements for Students with
Significant Cognitive Disabilities

English Language Proficiency Assessment Requirements

In accordance with Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all states are required to identify the languages other than English present in their student population, assess the language proficiency of students in order to place them in the appropriate language development program, and administer an annual assessment of English proficiency to include the students' oral language, reading, and writing skills in English.

Title I and IDEA require all Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students, regardless of their IEP status, to be assessed annually in their English language proficiency. Students with disabilities who are also LEP students must take either the regular or alternate English language proficiency assessment, as determined by the case conference committee. No LEP student is exempt from participating in the annual English language proficiency assessment. The guidance documents titled *Questions and Answers Regarding Inclusion of English Learners with Disabilities in English Language Proficiency Assessments* can be found by clicking on the following link: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html>.

Indiana's ESEA Flexibility Waiver requires the state to adopt an English language proficiency assessment that is college- and career-ready and aligned to Indiana's English language development standards. Indiana adopted the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English language development standards in October 2013 and joined the WIDA consortium to adopt the corresponding English language proficiency assessments for the 2014-15 school year. WIDA assessments will replace the current use of LAS Links.

WIDA offers a comprehensive assessment system that consists of the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT), the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and the ***Alternate ACCESS for ELLs***. 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 LEP students with significant cognitive disabilities.

The ***Alternate ACCESS for ELLs*** is an assessment of English language proficiency (ELP) for students in grades 1-12 who are classified as English Language Learners (ELLs) (LEP

students) and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the *ACCESS for ELLs* assessment. (Kindergarten LEP students will participate in the WIDA ACCESS.)

Important Notes:

- If the case conference committee determines that the LEP student will take ISTAR or NCSC, then the student must also take the Alternate ACCESS. (The Alternate ACCESS is administered to all students that qualify.)
- If the case conference committee determines that the student will participate in ISTEP+, then the student must take WIDA ACCESS.

The **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** aligns with the WIDA Alternate English Language Proficiency levels. Additional information can be found at <http://www.wida.us/assessment/alternateaccess.aspx>.

Next Steps:

LAS Links Placement Test

Any LEP student with significant cognitive disabilities that was previously coded as 7 on the ***English Learners and Immigrant Students (DOE-LM) report*** will need to be given the LAS Links Placement Test **within 30 days of this notification**. Code 7 (IEP prohibits) will no longer be a valid code on the DOE-LM. All LEP students, including students with an IEP, must have an English language proficiency level.

School corporations may utilize LAS Links Placement test materials already on site. If additional materials are needed, Corporation Test Coordinators may order additional LAS Links Placement materials by calling the CTB/Indiana Help Desk at 1-800-282-1132.

Recorded training sessions, in addition to pdf versions of PowerPoint presentations for the LAS Links Placement test trainings from last fall, are available under the Files and Bookmarks tab in two communities in the Learning Connection:

- The “Test Coordinator Corner” Community
 - Training materials are available in the *Training* folder of the *LAS Links* folder.
- The “IDOE – LAS Links Assessment – Administrators Community”
 - Training materials are available in the *Training* folder.

LAS Links Test Administration Note: In any part of the test, if the student has failed, or does not respond to, any five (5) *consecutive* items, including the practice item(s), the test examiner is to stop testing and move on to the next part of the test. If the student misses or does not respond to five (5) *consecutive* items in two consecutive parts of the test, administration of the assessment is to completely stop.

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs as the Annual Proficiency Assessment

School corporations will use the *WIDA ACCESS for ELLs* as the annual proficiency assessment of all LEP students beginning in January of 2015. Information regarding training and test materials ordering will be disseminated in the coming weeks to Corporation Test Coordinators.

Questions related to the use of LAS Links placement tests and/or the transition to WIDA ACCESS may be directed to Karen Stein in the Office of Student Assessment via email at kstein@doe.in.gov or by calling (317) 232-9050.