

WIDA Alternate ACCESS

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is the alternate assessment for the ACCESS for ELLs test. The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is for students in grades 1–12 who are classified as ELs and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs test. The WIDA Alternate ACCESS is designed for only a small population of ELs who meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- The student has a current IEP that reflects the student meets the eligibility criteria for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment.
- The student must be instructed using the *North Carolina Extended Content Standards* (i.e., reading and mathematics) and the *North Carolina Extended Essential Standards* (i.e., science).
- The student must have a significant cognitive disability.
 - The student's disability significantly impacts adaptive behaviors, defined as those skills which are essential for someone to live and function independently.
 - The student requires extensive and repeated individualized instruction and support to make meaningful gains.
 - The student uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods of accessing information in alternative ways.
- The student's ACCESS for ELLs scores from the prior school year yielded NA across any or all domains or yielded a composite score of less than 2.0. (If the composite score is 2.0 or above, the student does not qualify for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS and must continue to take the regular ACCESS for ELLs.)
- If the student does not have ACCESS for ELLs scores from the prior school year, the student's WIDA Screener results must have a proficiency level of 1 in all applicable domains.

Note: Students identified as ELs and enrolled in school beyond grade 12 (e.g., students instructed using the *North Carolina Extended Content Standards* and the *Extended Essential Standards*) are required to be administered the appropriate WIDA Alternate ACCESS or ACCESS for ELLs assessment annually until the student exits EL status or is no longer enrolled in school.