

- 1. *I have a new student that has never been screened. Is there a rule regarding the time between the screener and ACCESS testing?*** I am not aware of a rule regarding time between screener and ACCESS testing. These assessments are unique and do not overlap. The guidance given that does impact ACCESS test administrations would be for a student who transfers in to the school. Students who enter (transfer) into the school district after the beginning of the school year must be screened within 14 days. Additionally, if a student transfers into the school during the testing window and is enrolled after March 2, he/she would NOT be administered the ACCESS assessment for 2017-18.
- 2. *If a student comes in after March 2, will they still be included in the accountability results?*** If so, this might affect subgroup numbers and long-range numbers. Students will still be included in ELA, Math, and Science accountability results (in the EL subgroup). EL Progress will only include students who took the ACCESS assessment in the current year and had a previous test scores. Any student who is not tested due to the enrollment date will not be included in accountability results for EL Progress.
- 3. *If the other state scores are less than one year old, can they be used to in accountability for proficiency and long-term trends? Clarification - This was for any student that exited prior to coming to North Carolina.***

No. Only ACCESS scores that are generated by NC testing are used in our accountability model. If a student is not included in the model it would be due to the fact that he or she was not enrolled in time during the ACCESS testing window to be included in our state's data. Scores from other states are only used to determine placement/services when the scores are less than one year old.
- 4. *In the past we have not required proctors for one-on-one testing for ACCESS (like Kindergarten) at the other grade levels. Is this still the same, or do grades 1- 12 require a proctor even if one-on-one testing?*** The only exception to the proctor requirement is for Kindergarten. All other test sessions require proctors.
- 5. *Kindergarten should have a proctor as there is an opportunity for the TA to manipulate the score as they score as they test. The online should not need a proctor as the TA is only monitoring the student progress and cannot manipulate the score as they are machine scored. Seems backwards to me that we need a proctor as the TA is only monitoring the student progress and cannot manipulate the score as they are machine scored.*** Please be reminded that NC permitted proctor flexibility for Kindergarten ACCESS administrations (not requiring a proctor in each setting) after many LEAs/charter schools expressed hardship in finding proctors for all Kindergarten settings along with Grade 1-12 test settings. While this is not an NCDPI mandate, any test coordinator who feels a proctor is necessary in a Kindergarten administration may require this.
- 6. *Do we have to request the NC ACCESS Guides?*** ACCESS guides were provided to test coordinators during training (4 per school).
- 7. *Accommodation Test read aloud in English - if this accommodation is selected, how do we define the other part like repeat audio, human reader manual control etc.?*** This question is unclear. Please refer to the cross walk for accommodations which begins on p. 43 of the *WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 North Carolina Policy and Procedure Guidance for Annual Testing 2017-18*.

2018 ACCESS for ELLs QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

8. **Can the TA use an electronic device for the scripts as they are only being provided in an electronic format?** Yes.
9. **Why were K and Alternate students uploaded into the AMS? They only take Paper tests**
Testing information for Kindergarten and Alternate had to be included in our state Pre-ID file. Otherwise, paper-and-pencil materials could not be ordered. Even though, students show in AMS, they are not scheduled in any test sessions. Test Sessions are only created for Grades 1-12 students who need to take the test via WIDA AMS .
10. **Is the state pulling any data from the AMS?** The data that we use is generated by the vendor and returned to us as a deliverable.
11. **Why do students with MIB have to take a paper test? The OL version is one item per page and there are no bubbles to get misaligned?** This is a more of a question for local IEP teams to determine. If a student has a specific paper testing requirement and has mark in book this is what would determine the paper mode. Teams may need to look more specifically at this situation and determine if it is a one item per page is needed or paper testing mode is needed for this test.
12. **We need clarification on the section of the manual where it states that there can be no instruction prior to testing on the day of the test. Really? Because the K tests are 1-1 and schools try to do many in a day, this would really waste a lot of instructional time. This is also true for the grades 1-3 that have to do writing on paper. It just isn't feasible to waste all that instructional time. This would even be compounded if something happened and a student's test had to be pushed to the next day. We also have a lot of EL teachers shared between schools and they may not be able to start testing until after lunch due to being in a different school in the am. Seems like bad policy for this test. Works for EOC/EOGs because of dedicated full time teachers in those subjects.**
This policy guidance is addressing specifically EL instruction pertaining to the test. No instruction should be provided to the student on the day of testing (prior to testing) that would address the specific concepts/principles addressed by the ACCESS assessment.
13. **Are foreign exchange students who are assessed with the screener and eligible for services also eligible for testing accommodations?** Yes. Any student who qualifies for EL services may receive testing accommodations if they meet the criteria.
14. **To clarify, there is no time limit for ACCESS testing if students are actively engaged and working on the assessment. If this is the case, they may continue to work, correct?** Encourage TAs to administer as closely to the test publisher's guidelines as possible. If there are "exceptions" to the administration time, then it will most likely be an exception and not a rule. WIDA states that TAs must use their professional judgment. However, we do not want situations where students are testing for hours on end or all day long.
15. **What is the procedure for resetting a test in WIDA AMS this year in the event of a misadministration?**
The process this year is the same as last year. Test coordinators in DPS must call the Office of State Assessments and fax the *DPS Report of Testing Irregularity* form to (919)560-2067. The Testing & Accountability Specialist will respond and provide next steps.

****Students may be given scratch paper with all state assessments. This applies to each domain including speaking****