

WIDA ALTERNATE ACCESS Fact Sheet

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS **meets New Mexico's federal requirement** to provide an annual assessment of academic English language proficiency for ELLs with **the most significant cognitive disabilities** as designated through their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Who takes WIDA Alternate ACCESS?

The WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment is administered to English learners with the **most significant cognitive disabilities**, whose special education IEP designates it as the appropriate English-language proficiency assessment. **This test should NOT be administered to students who have exited EL status.** For additional guidance, view the [WIDA Alternate ACCESS Participation Decision Tree](#).

What does the test measure?

WIDA Alternate ACCESS measures a student's overall proficiency and their progress towards English language proficiency in four domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

When is the test given?

The test is given in the early spring of every school year. Testing dates are on the [Assessment Calendar](#).

How is the test administered?

- WIDA Alternate ACCESS is a large-print, paper-based test administered individually to a student.
- Each domain is administered separately with each domain taking up to 30 minutes to administer.
- Test time may vary depending on the student's grade and communication mode.

What are the Proficiency Levels?

1 Entering	2 Emerging	3 Developing	4 Expanding	5 Bridging
---------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------	---------------

Prior to **2023-2024**, the overall score of **≥P1 to exit EL status**. Following the new **WIDA Alternate ACCESS standard setting 2023-2024**, students must achieve an overall composite score of **≥3 to exit EL status for WIDA Alternate ACCESS**. Please note that the proficiency levels above have been updated by WIDA in SY 2023-2024 to 1–5 as indicated above. Visit [WIDA Alternate Proficiency Level Descriptors](#) to see more details for each language domain.

Where can I access reports?

School personnel can access reports that are found on the secured WIDA site on the [WIDA AMS](#) portal. Schools are required to provide individual student reports to parents and guardians.

For more information on the WIDA Alternate ACCESS, please visit the [PED WIDA ACCESS Resources page](#) and the [NM WIDA ACCESS site](#).