

# A Brief Overview of the ACCESS for ELLs

## • **What does ACCESS mean?**

Assessing  
Comprehension and  
Communication in  
English  
State-to-  
State  
for English Language Learners

The ACCESS is a large-scale standardized test that has been adopted by the state of New Hampshire.

## • **Who Developed the ACCESS?**

The ACCESS was developed by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) and the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium (WIDA Consortium). WIDA is composed of approximately 20 partner states and strives to design and implement high ELL standards. New Hampshire is a member of WIDA.

## • **How is the ACCESS organized?**

First, all ESOL students are placed into their GRADE CLUSTER:

1-2                      3-5                      6-8                      9-12

Next, ESOL students are further separated by their TIER.

The ACCESS has 3 tiers: Tier A, Tier B, Tier C. Think of the tiers as low, medium, and high.

Tier A= low  
Tier B= medium  
Tier C= high

Students who have an extremely limited English proficiency are placed into Tier A. Students who are considered more "fluent" are placed into Tier C. The majority of students fall into Tier B.

## • **What is the Content of the ACCESS?**

Within each tier there are 4 LANGUAGE DOMAINS and 5 CONTENT AREAS.

LANGUAGE DOMAINS: listening, reading, speaking, and writing

CONTENT AREAS: math, science, social studies, language arts, and social and instructional

The ACCESS works off of the WIDA standards and it strives to assess the language of the content areas without assessing the knowledge of content areas.

• **Who Scores the ACCESS?**

The scores of the ACCESS are sent out to a company (Metritech). The writing section is scored by raters, and the reading and listening are scored by machines. The speaking test is administer-scored. The scores will be sent out in late February when the testing is finished and will arrive back in mid-to late May.

• **How Long does the ACCESS take?**

The reading and listening sections are given together and take approximately 75 minutes.

The writing section takes up to 1 hour.

The speaking section takes approximately 20 minutes.

• **Why Implement the ACCESS?**

1. The ACCESS is state mandated. We have to give it to anyone who is identified as eligible for ESOL services.
2. The ACCESS will help tailor student ESOL services by pinpointing the content area vocabulary that may be lacking.
3. The ACCESS will enable us to track students' progress over the years.
4. The ACCESS will help determine student services based on student scores.

• **Want to Learn More?**

<http://www.wida.us/ACCESSForELLs/>

or

ask your ESOL teachers

THANK YOU!