Using ACCESS for ELLs to Promote Beneficial Outcomes for English Learners

How to use ACCESS for ELLs scores to achieve positive outcomes for English learners

	Test scores	Interpretations	Decisions
School/ district-level educators	Ensure schools have the necessary training and technology to administer ACCESS. Follow state and WIDA administration requirements and guidelines.	Understand what ACCESS scores mean and what a student can do with language. Communicate the meaning of ACCESS scores to content teachers, families, and students.	Consistently apply decision criteria to all students. Inform instruction by helping educators make decisions about language programs and resource allocation.
State-level administrators	Ensure districts and schools have the necessary resources and guidance to administer ACCESS.	Understand what ACCESS scores mean and how they might be used to inform school and district improvement.	Create state-level policy on placement, progress monitoring, program evaluation, and reclassification.
WIDA	Rely on educator input to develop a test with fair and relevant content.	Provide clear guidelines for interpreting ACCESS scores.	Provide clear guidelines and useful resources for making decisions using ACCESS scores.

Positive and Intended Outcomes

✓ Everyone understands students' year-to-year English language proficiency development.

✓ Students receive language support at the level they need.

✓ Students can meaningfully participate and are supported in content classes conducted in English.

✓ Students who are proficient in English participate in content classes without need for further English language support.

✓ School-level educators receive targeted and sufficient resources to provide high-quality instruction to English learners.

Negative and Unintended Outcomes

✖ Test results are used as measure of ability in English language arts.

✖ Students are placed into special education or gifted education programs based on test performance.

✖ Teacher effectiveness is judged based on student test performance.