

A green curved line representing a hill spans across the top of the page. Silhouettes of five people are shown walking along the crest of the hill from left to right. The first person is sitting on the ground, the second is walking, the third is walking, the fourth is walking, and the fifth is wearing a graduation cap.

Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parents of English Learners

FROM: Charlie Geier, Director of Early Learning and Intervention
Rachel Davidson, English Learning and Migrant Education Coordinator

DATE: November 17, 2014

SUBJECT: New Assessment for English Language Proficiency

WIDA ACCESS

The Indiana Department of Education would like to announce to parents of English learners that Indiana has adopted a new English language proficiency assessment: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs. This assessment takes the place of the previous English language proficiency assessment (LAS Links). Any student who had a Level 1-4 on the previous LAS Links annual assessment or a score of not proficient/approaching proficiency on the LAS Links placement test will participate in WIDA ACCESS for ELLs.

Testing Window and Results

Your local school will give ACCESS for ELLs during the January 21-February 27, 2015 testing window. The assessment results will return near the end of the 2014-2015 school year. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs gives information about your student's level of social and academic language proficiency in order to communicate and learn in all subject areas. The assessment is directly tied to WIDA English language development (ELD) standards, which Indiana adopted in October 2014. More information about the WIDA ELD standards and WIDA ACCESS for ELLs can be found at www.wida.us.

Changes to Exit Criteria for Annual Testing

Previously, English learners in Indiana needed two consecutive level 5s on the English language proficiency assessment to exit the program. This requirement has been removed. Now, students only need one level 5 fluent English proficient score. Students who received their first fluent English proficient score in spring 2014 will **NOT** have to participate in WIDA ACCESS for ELLs spring 2015. However, the school still must monitor your student's progress for two years to make sure that he or she is doing well.

Additional Resources

Parents may also want to view WIDA's family webinars, which can be found at <http://www.wida.us/downloadLibrary.aspx> under the "Standards" column on the left-hand side. These webinars explain the term English language learner, how the school will support your child's language development, and how to know if your student is making progress. These webinars are available in English and Spanish.

If you have questions, please contact the English Learner or Title III Director at your school or school corporation.