



CITY SCHOOLS OF DECATUR

ESOL NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 5 | January

ACCESS Testing: What You Need to Know



ACCESS for ELLs

WIDA was established in 2003 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for the purpose of creating English language proficiency standards and assessments.

***All students identified as English Learners (ELs) are required to participate in ACCESS for ELs testing, including students who waive direct ESOL services.**

City Schools of Decatur ESOL department will be administering the WIDA ACCESS test during the Georgia ACCESS testing window which runs from January 12, 2022 – March 4, 2022. Please see the individual CSD school testing window below.

ACCESS Testing Schedules by Schools

- **Clairemont**
January 24 – February 11
- **Decatur High**
January 25, 26, and 27
- **Fifth Avenue**
January 20 – February 11
- **Glenwood**
January 24 – February 11
- **Oakhurst**
January 20 – February 11
- **Renfroe Middle**
January 25 – February 22
- **Talley Street**
January 20 – February 11
- **Westchester**
January 24 – February 11
- **Winnona Park**
January 25 – February 22

Top 3 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers



1. When does my student take the ACCESS for ELs test? When will he/she exit the ESOL program?

The testing window for ACCESS for ELs opens in January with the results arriving in mid May. Scores will determine whether students meet the exit criteria set by the Georgia Department of Education or whether students will continue to qualify for services. The parent/guardian will be notified of test results and informed whether or not their student continues to qualify for services in late May or June.

2. What does the ACCESS for ELs include?

ACCESS for ELs measures the four key language skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. The listening and reading portions use multiple choice questions. Speaking is assessed through recorded responses to questions. The writing portion includes two – three writing tasks.



3. What are classroom and standardized testing accommodations?

Accommodations are supports given to make instruction and assessments understandable to students. Appropriate accommodations for ELs are determined each year through ESOL and content teacher recommendations.

Teachers complete an individualized plan by holding a Testing Participation Committee (TPC) Meeting for classroom and standardized testing accommodations.

The accommodations are documented on the TPC and a copy of the recommended accommodations for standardized testing are shared with parents/guardians.

Need More Information About ACCESS Testing?

You will receive a notification letter from your child's ESOL teacher, informing you about the test and the testing schedule for your child's school.



If you have additional questions please contact your child's ESOL teacher:

- **Janet Arenas** (Winona Park/Renfroe Middle School) jarenas@csdecatur.net
- **Maura Burke** (Decatur High School) mburke@csdecatur.net
- **Alice Gerstel** (Clairemont/Westchester/Glenwood) agerstel@csdecatur.net
- **Alexis Edwards-Williams** (Oakhurst/Talley/FAVE) aedwards-williams@csdecatur.net

Need Information Translated?

Translation for any communication on the CSD website can be done following these 3 easy steps: [How To Translate Information from your School's Website](#)

Preparing Students for the ACCESS

For many students the news that they have to take a test is viewed as negative. To combat this ESOL teachers are working with students to calm their nerves and ease their fears about having to take the ACCESS test. Students are continuing to work on Imagine Learning which offers practice in each of the domains; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. If age appropriate, students may review their last ACCESS scores and set a goal for achievement. There are many videos that allow students to view sample questions and practice. During testing it is important for students to get a full night's sleep, eat a nutritious breakfast and arrive at school on time.

Highlights and Upcoming Events

REMINDER

- **Book Coupon Orders:** Parents will be notified of book coupon order pick-up times. All book orders must be picked up by Friday, January 28, 2022.
- **CSD Roundtable**
 - Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (Flyer linked [here](#).)
- **ESOL & Federal Programs with SouthState - Finance 101: Part 1**
 - Thursday, February 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (Flyer linked [here](#).)
 - Register by Thursday, January 27, 2022. **Registration form linked [here](#).**

