

## **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Testing Requirement/Waiver Process**

This message is a reminder that effective 2015-16, online administrations are required for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 tests of reading, writing, listening, and speaking (see the memo titled *ONLINE ASSESSMENTS Update for 2015–16*). The ACCESS 2.0 Kindergarten assessment is available in paper/pencil format only.

There should only be isolated instances where it is not appropriate for students to test online. The only exceptions to the requirement are for 1) local education agencies (LEAs) or charter schools that do not have the technology capability to support administering the online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and for 2) individual students with disabilities who have documented accommodations that dictate a paper/pencil test format is necessary for accessibility. The expectation for students taking the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is to test in the online format.

**Technology Hardships.** If LEAs or charter schools do not have the technology capability to support administering students the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 tests, a letter indicating the reason(s) for the hardship must be submitted for approval to Dr. Tammy Howard, the Director of Accountability Services. LEAs/charters ordering paper/pencil materials must have an approved letter on file with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and must order paper/pencil materials through the Data Recognition Corporation website. These orders will be reviewed and verified by the NCDPI prior to processing/shipping.

**Accessibility for Students with Disabilities.** The ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is available in either an online or paper/pencil mode. The ACCESS 2.0 Kindergarten assessment is available in paper/pencil format only. Both the online and paper/pencil tests may be administered with or without accommodations. Please note that the mode of the test (paper/pencil or online) is not an accommodation, and the mode does not need to be documented on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. If the required accommodations documented on the IEP or Section 504 Plan dictate a specific mode for assessment, then that mode must be provided to the student on test day. The mode must support the accommodations. The decision regarding testing accommodations must be based on the individual needs of the student. Accommodation documentation must exist in the student's current IEP or Section 504 Plan, and the documented accommodations must be used routinely during classroom instruction and similar classroom assessments that measure the same construct. A letter does not need to be submitted to Dr. Howard for approval for students with disabilities who have documented accommodations that dictate a paper/pencil mode is necessary for accessibility. For paper/pencil tests, order must be placed through the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) website. These orders will be reviewed and verified by the NCDPI prior to processing/shipping.

**Technology Specifications.** WIDA has provided support documents to help technology coordinators prepare for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 administrations. Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) will be providing the online assessments through the INSIGHT system. Information and support materials for technology coordinators (including training webinar and timeline checklist) can be accessed at <https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx>. The technology

requirements for administrations of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 can also be located at <https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-tech.aspx>.

**Headsets.** Headsets that include a microphone will be auto-shipped to LEAs/charter schools based on LEP student headcounts. No LEAs/charter schools will receive a headset for each student.