



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

April 6, 2017

TO: Deputy Superintendent  
Complex Area Superintendents  
Public Charter School Executive Director  
Principals (All)  
Public Charter School Directors (All)  
Test Coordinators (All)  
ELL Coordinators (All)

FROM: Tammi Chun, Assistant Superintendent  
Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance

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C. Suzanne Mulcahy, Assistant Superintendent  
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support

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SUBJECT: **SY 2017-18 Transition to WIDA ACCESS for English Language Learners (ELL) 2.0  
Online Administration for all Schools**

**Annual Assessment for ELLs: SY 2017-18 Online Assessment - ALL SCHOOLS**

Each school year, the *WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 (ACCESS)*, an English language proficiency assessment, must be administered to all ELL students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade.

*Beginning in SY 2017-18, the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online assessment will be administered online by all schools. The remaining 134 schools (see Attachment A) will transition to the online assessment, and all schools will participate in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online. Paper-based assessments will continue to be only available for Kindergarten ACCESS, and for ELLs who are eligible for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. The annual testing window for the ACCESS administration is in mid-January through the end of February (actual dates to be determined).*

**ACCESS 2.0 ONLINE – BENEFITS**

Students and teachers will benefit from a range of features with the online delivery of the *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online*. Advantages include:

- Increased student engagement through a more dynamic and interactive testing experience
- Built-in accommodations and accessibility features appropriate for a range of student needs
- Staged adaptivity, which captures students' individual range of language skills
- Increased ease of administration for test coordinators and administrators, e.g.,
  - Greater logistical flexibility as a result of being able to simultaneously administer multiple domains, grades and proficiency levels.
  - Group administration for all domains (vs. individual paper pencil administration).

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- o Centralized scoring by the testing company for all domains (vs. school staff scoring).
- o School test administrators will have less or no paper/pencil test materials to handle, store and return.
- o School test administrators will not need to rate or score test questions. Students will also be placed into Tiers automatically based on the adaptive test.

### **Headsets**

The Assessment Section will provide each of the schools who were administering the pencil/paper version of the test this past year with a box of 30 headsets that may be used for the administration of the *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online*, along with any other assessments such as the *Smarter Balanced Assessments* or programs in the schools.

### **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 ONLINE - ASSESSMENT TEAM**

Roles and responsibilities for test administration will most likely need to be shifted based on the *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online* requirements. Traditionally, the ELL staff has been largely responsible for administering the *ACCESS* state assessment.

Transition to the *ACCESS 2.0 Online* will require the involvement and collaboration of the school's technology coordinator, test coordinator, and ELL coordinator, at minimum. It is recommended that an Assessment Team be established at each school, as the roles and responsibilities for team members will be covered in documents and trainings that will be provided prior to the start of the test window.

Refer to Attachment B for more information related to roles and responsibilities, online vs. paper/pencil testing details and differences, and test timing.

### **ACCESS 2.0 ONLINE - TRAINING**

In Fall 2017, *ACCESS 2.0 Online* training sessions will be conducted for school test coordinators, technology coordinators, and ELL test coordinators for new schools and test coordinators to the process.

Training will cover administration procedures, technology requirements, accessibility and accommodations guidelines and other topics related to the administration of the *ACCESS Online* assessment. Details regarding this training and registration procedures will be provided in subsequent communications for all schools.

Webinars for test coordinators, test administrators and technology coordinators will also be made available throughout the 2017-18 school year. Recordings of previous webinars may be accessed at: <https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx> .

If you have questions regarding the *online WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0* assessment, contact Karen Tohinaka, Test Development Specialist, Assessment Section at (808) 733-4100 or via Lotus Notes email.

TC:BR:cy  
Attachments

c: Assistant Superintendents  
Superintendent's Office Directors  
State Public Charter School Commission  
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support  
Office of Information Technology Services  
Assessment and Accountability Branch