



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

April 19, 2017

TO: Deputy Superintendent, Complex Area Superintendents, Principals, Public Charter School Executive Director, Public Charter School Directors, Test Coordinators, English Language Learners (ELL) Complex and School Coordinators

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

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

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL YEAR (SY) 2016-17 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 SCORE REPORT**

SY 2016-17 WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 (ACCESS 2.0) Results – Monday, April 24, 2017

Beginning Monday, April 24, 2017, ACCESS 2.0 hard copy results for SY 2016-17 will be mailed by DRC to schools for review and validation. Additionally, schools will be able to view preliminary scores in WIDA AMS, and soon thereafter in eCSSS. Schools **will not** be able to generate exit letters in eCSSS until after May 12, 2017.

Upon receipt of score reports, ELL and/or School Test Coordinators shall:

- **By Thursday, April 27, 2017, 12 noon**, immediately report any errors or discrepancies to your Complex Area ELL Resource Teacher, using the following form: goo.gl/MY9tDf
- **Starting Monday, May 15, 2017**, generate parent ELL exit letters in eCSSS and send home prior to end of this school year.

WIDA CONSORTIUM STANDARD SETTING

Due to higher language demands and expectations on state content assessments, the WIDA consortium conducted a standard setting, which resulted in an adjusted interpretation of English language proficiency (ELP) scores. The adjusted ACCESS 2015-16 and the new ACCESS 2016-2017 scores establish a baseline against which future growth will be measured.

As a result of the standard setting, only the ELP scores' interpretation changed. The WIDA Standards did not change, nor did the test. Therefore, scores will be lower and less students will exit. **To ensure students will meet higher content expectations, ELL exit criteria have also been adjusted to an overall 5.0 Proficiency Level. The 4.2 literacy score minimum requirement is no longer applicable for exit.**

For more information on the WIDA 2017 Score Changes, view the following:

- 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Score Changes Webpage: goo.gl/0mK7zl
- Score Change Webex: goo.gl/m0gbOk

How can we help students?

- Looking forward, eCSSS has been updated with the adjusted 2015-16 ACCESS scores to allow a comparison with this year's 2016-17 ACCESS 2.0 results.
- Looking back, original 2015-16 ACCESS scores can be found in the eCSSS assessment notes, and must be referenced when compared with 2014-15 ACCESS scores.
- Ensure ELL students are getting proper and sufficient English language development supports addressing, at minimum, the five WIDA Standards (i.e., four core content areas and the WIDA ELD Standard One, Social Instructional Language). More information on WIDA Standards can be found here: goo.gl/Yr47Sd
 - Schools will likely see more ELL students remain qualified for ELL services, which may require consideration as Academic Plans and Financial Plans are finalized.
- Monitor students who have exited the ELL program in recent years, and take action to support students who may be struggling, e.g., provide ongoing English language development supports by regular staff, or consider pulling students back into ELL Program.
- Visit the 2017 ACCESS For ELLs 2.0 Score Changes page on the wida.us site to find communication tools to assist students and parents understand their scores and prepare for future testing.

Communication for Parents

- A parent communication flyer regarding the ACCESS 2.0 assessment results was created: goo.gl/sNWI51
- The flyer has been translated into 46 languages and can be accessed here: goo.gl/frgjHt
 - Share applicable translated flyers with parents when the 2017 ACCESS 2.0 score reports are distributed.

For questions, please contact Karen Tohinaka, Test Development Specialist, Assessment Section, at (808) 733-4100 or via Lotus Notes or Andreas Wiegand, ELL Educational Specialist, OCISS at (808) 305-9717, or via Lotus Notes.

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