

Understanding Your Child's 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Scores

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is an English **language proficiency** assessment for students in Kindergarten—Grade 12. The test is administered every year to help school districts monitor the English **language development** of students identified as **English language learners**. Your child's scores are reported on the Individual Student Report. We encourage you and your family to look at your child's scores to know where he or she is in the process of English language development.

Proficiency level scores are reported as numbers that range from 1.0—6.0, for example, 2.2 or 4.0. You can think of a score of 1.0 as a “beginner” score, while 6.0 can be considered an “advanced” English language proficiency score.

What's new in 2017?

New academic standards and assessments for core subjects like mathematics, science, and language arts have increased the complexity of the language all students are expected to use at school, including English language learners. To meet the demands of these new academic standards, the expectations for language use on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 have also increased. The difficulty of test questions on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 has not changed, but students will need to demonstrate higher language skills to achieve the same proficiency level scores. This gives everyone confidence that the assessment provides the information needed to support decisions that impact the education of English language learners.

What does this mean for my child?

If your child's scores on the 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 go down from their scores on the 2016 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, don't worry. It doesn't mean your child is doing worse in English. The 2017 scores more accurately show the language skills your child needs to demonstrate before exiting the English language support program. Because of the changes described above, your child may receive a lower score and still have made progress in English since last year.

Questions to ask

We encourage you to discuss the 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 scores with your child's teacher(s). Here are some questions to ask:

- Based on these test results, what type of English language support do you provide my child?
- How are the scores shared with my child's teachers?
- Will my child take this test every year?
- What scores does my child need to exit the English language support program?

If you have questions about your child's ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 scores, please contact your child's school.



English language learners are students who are eligible to receive support at school with the English language.

Language proficiency is a measurement of where students are in the process of language development.

Language development is a process that takes time. Students move along this process at different rates.



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