

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Alternate ACCESS for ELLs® in South Carolina, Spring 2015**

*Please note that this document may be updated as additional questions and answers are received.*

Listed below are the most frequently asked questions that the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has received from district and school personnel about the statewide administration of Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.

**Q: Do students in all grades need to be assessed using Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?**

**A:** English language learners must be assessed as long they are enrolled in school and have not exited ELL services with either the ACCESS for ELLs or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is available for students in grades 1–12. Students in kindergarten should take the kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs.

**Q: Who will administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?**

**A:** The test administrator should be familiar with the student and the student's IEP. It is a good idea for the ELL teacher and the special education teacher to work together to administer this assessment.

**Q: If the student is taking the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, do they have to take other alternate assessments?**

**A:** Yes, if the English language learner is enrolled in school and has not exited for ELL services, he or she must take the English language proficiency exam, as well as the general alternate assessments in ELA, mathematics, science and social studies to meet federal and state accountability requirements.

**Q: Are monitors required for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment? If so, what training do they need to receive?**

**A:** Monitors are required for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment. The Test Administrator should provide the monitor with an overview of the assessment and make sure that the monitor signs the *Acknowledgement to Maintain Test Security and Confidentiality*. The monitor must also sign the *Test Administrator Security Affidavit*.

**Q: Is a Test Administrator Security Affidavit required for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?**

**A:** Yes. A *Test Administrator Security Affidavit* is required for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. It must be signed by the Test Administrator, Monitor, and the Principal. Once it is signed, it must be given to your District Test Coordinator for Alternate Assessment. The DTC-Alt will maintain it in your district for at least one year.

**Q: How do Test Administrators get their username and password for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs so that we can take the Test Administrator quiz?**

**A:** Your DTC for ELLs can provide you with your log in information.

**Q: I have an English learner that receives services on a consultative basis. He does not receive direct services. Is he required to take this test?**

**A:** If the student is an English language learner, he is required to take the English Language proficiency exam even if he does not receive direct services.

**Q: Does it need to be documented on the IEP that a first or second grader is participating in Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?**

**A:** If the student is alternate assessment eligible, it should be documented on the student's IEP. The SCDE has developed a guidance document to assist IEP teams with determining participation in alternate assessments. Please refer to the SCDE web site to access the document, *Guidance for IEP Teams on Determining Participation in South Carolina Alternate Assessments*.

**Q: I have a student that is housed in an elementary school (5<sup>th</sup> grade), but he is 12. Should he take the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?**

**A:** For all of the alternate assessments, the student must be assessed based on his or her age. The student should take the 7<sup>th</sup> grade assessment since his age is equivalent to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Q: I have an English language learner that is 19 and still in school. He has not exited from ELL services. Does he have to take Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?**

**A:** If the student is enrolled in school, he must take the ACCESS for ELLs or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.

**Q: Can students that are taking the general assessment take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?**

**A:** The student must be SC-Alt eligible to take Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.