

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Alternate ACCESS for ELLs® in South Carolina

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: 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: 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.