

Office Hour FAQ

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education



COLORADO
Department of Education

April 11, 2025 Office Hour Topics:

Assessment Office

Colorado adopted the WIDA Standards as the Colorado English Language Proficiency (CELP) Standards in 2009 and became full WIDA members in 2011. WIDA ACCESS is summative English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards based assessment which include ACCESS for ELLs, Kindergarten ACCESS, and Alternate ACCESS. It is a criterion-based, which measures student performance on the criteria within the standard.

Who Takes WIDA ACCESS: All Multilingual Learners (MLs) designated as Non English Proficient (NEP) and Limited English Proficient (LEP), including students with disabilities, must participate in the state ELP assessment required by federal (Title IA & Title IIIA) and state law (SB 109 & HB 14-1298), and is guaranteed to students under Civil Rights Law of 1964 and the Office for Civil Rights Memorandum of 1970. The educational team (IEP, 504, or EL), which must include the parents, determines whether the student will take ACCESS for ELLs with or without accommodations or, for a student with the most significant cognitive disability, meets the participation requirements for the Alternate ACCESS.

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC): a vendor contracted by WIDA; a long standing partner responsible for the administration, scoring and reporting of WIDA ACCESS; WIDA and DRC administer WIDA ACCESS to 2.5 million students each year.

WIDA ACCESS Reports: ACCESS results are embargoed and must not be publicly disseminated, distributed, or published by any means until they are publicly released by the state. Please note that these reports are confidential, and both electronic and hard copy distributions must comply with state and federal privacy laws, as well as local school board policies; Individual Student Reports (ISRs) should be shared with parents or guardians before the end of the school year; downloadable via WIDA AMS on April 30th; printed reports are shipped to districts between May 12-13; stored securely in the district student data management system; ACCESS growth is available mid-summer.

District and school staff may use results internally as soon as practicable to inform professional development and decisions regarding student English development programming. It is the District Assessment Coordinator's responsibility to download ACCESS results in a timely manner. Importantly, consistent with state law, each local education provider should ensure appropriate personnel within each school district and each institute charter school share with and explain student assessment results to each student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

- Customizable [ACCESS for ELLs Parent Letters](#), available in the same 49 languages as the ACCESS for ELLs Individual Student Report (ISR), share general information about ACCESS for ELLs. [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding your Child's Scores](#) or [WIDA Alternate ACCESS: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#) can further support parental understanding of the ISR. PDF versions of ISRs can be used if a parent/guardian needs or requires a large print version of the ISRs.
- The [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) and [WIDA Alternate ACCESS Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) explain ACCESS scores.

For more information, please visit the [Colorado ACCESS webpage](#).



Educator Talent Office

English Learner Professional Development (EL PD) requirements for renewal are required for any educator renewing a professional teacher license on or after – or one that expires on or after 9.1.25 – with one or more of the following endorsements in elementary education, English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, middle school mathematics, and any legacy “MIDL” (middle level) endorsement. Please note that endorsements may not be removed from a license to avoid satisfying this requirement.

Educators with LDE, LDE Bilingual, CLD or CLD Bilingual endorsements automatically meet the EL PD requirement and will receive a designation upon issuance of their license renewal.

EL PD Pathways: 1) complete a CDE approved program which comprises 45 contact hours of coursework that address all requisite EL Quality Standards and Elements; educators will receive a single certification upon completion of an approved program or 2) complete individual coursework, professional development, trainings, workshops etc; must align with the EL Quality Standards and Elements totalling 45 contact hours.

EL PD Waiver Process: A waiver from the requirements will be made available for educators teaching in districts or charter schools authorized by the Charter School Institute (CSI) with an average English learner population over a three year period of 2 percent or less. The waiver can be requested by the district superintendent or principal of a CSI authorized charter school on behalf of individual teachers seeking license renewal. The waiver is valid for educators in the school district or charter school that requested the waiver; one license renewal period; and one calendar year (Jan 1-Dec 31) regardless of when it was requested.

For more information, please visit the [Educator Talent Office webpage](#).