



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

**EDUCATION**

**Spring 2023 Alternate ACCESS Field Test Guidance Memo**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is committed to providing equitable assessment opportunities for all students in the District of Columbia. In spring 2023, WIDA is conducting a field test for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (Alt ACCESS) assessment. This memo provides background information on the field test, as well as guidance to LEAs on participation requirements and preparing for the field test administration.

Additionally, WIDA is hosting an Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test Q&A Webinar for district/school coordinators and test administrators on **Thursday, Dec. 1 from 2-3:30 p.m. EST**. Go to the [Webinars](#) page in the WIDA Secure Portal for more information.

What?	Spring 2023 Alternate ACCESS Field Test for students in grades K-12
When?	<p>The Alt ACCESS Field Test window in DC is concurrent with the spring 2023 ACCESS/Alt ACCESS administration window: <b>Feb. 13 – March 24, 2023</b>.</p> <p>OSSE recommends the field test be administered <b>after</b> the completion of the Alt ACCESS test. Since the field test is a secure testing event, plans for administration of the field test should be detailed in the School Test Security Plan for Alt ACCESS.</p> <p>The field test will be similar in length to Alt ACCESS. As a reminder, each of the four domain tests for Alt ACCESS (Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing) can take up to 20 minutes to administer, for a total test time of 80 minutes. Keep in mind that depending on the student, test times may be considerably shorter.</p>
Who?	<p>All English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades K-12 who are eligible to take Alt ACCESS are expected to participate in the field test. OSSE makes alternate eligibility determinations for students in grades 3-12, while IEP teams will make the decision for students in grades K-2.</p> <p><b>Please note</b>, WIDA is working to expand the Alt ACCESS assessment to include kindergarten, so kindergartners will participate in the field test as well. IEP teams will make the determinations for kindergartners participating in Alt ACCESS and the field test.</p>
Where?	The Alternate ACCESS Field Test will take place at every school that is participating in the Alt ACCESS test administration. School Test Security Plans

	<p>should indicate the specific locations within the school where the field test will be administered.</p>
Why?	<p>The District of Columbia is a part of the WIDA Consortium. WIDA is redesigning the Alt ACCESS assessment and creating an alternate screener. New test items in the field test will provide the necessary data for this to happen.</p> <p>Field testing is an important step in the assessment development process and allows us to gather data on how new items perform, to determine whether the items are appropriate for use in future administrations. This process is important to ensure the fairness, accessibility and technical quality of statewide assessments.</p>
How?	<p>Field test training information and related quiz questions are included in the <a href="#">Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring</a> training course in the WIDA Secure Portal. This new training content was added on Sept. 6 and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.</p> <p>For more information and guidance from WIDA, Test Coordinators (TCs) and Test Administrators (TAs) are encouraged to visit the <a href="#">Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test webpage</a>.</p> <p><b>Additional guidance will be available through OSSE-hosted trainings for TCs and TAs as we approach the ACCESS administration window.</b></p>

For any questions about the Alt ACCESS assessment or field test, please contact Asaad Fulton at [Asaad.Fulton@dc.gov](mailto:Asaad.Fulton@dc.gov)