

## Assessment and Accommodations

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### Testing Accommodations (TPC Plan)

Excerpted from the GADOE Student Assessment Handbook:

**“Federal and state laws require that all students participate in the state-mandated assessment program, including... English learners (EL)...**

In certain situations, individual needs of EL students may warrant accommodations. Each local system shall determine whether or not testing accommodations are needed for each student. **Any accommodations offered must be consistent with current instructional and assessment accommodations made in the classroom.**

Accommodations will be determined by the English Language Learner Testing Participation Committee (EL/TPC) and will be made only when appropriate documentation is filed for each eligible student. Only state-approved accommodations may be considered and included in the EL/TPC form... The determination of accommodations for assessment shall be reviewed at least once a year.”

The Test Participation Committee (TPC) comprised of at least 3 committee members who include the ESOL teacher, classroom and/or content teachers, and an administrator, meets to determine allowable state-approved test accommodations. Test accommodations must mirror the accommodations provided in the classroom.

Information regarding the approved list of accommodations available for ELs and a one-time deferment available for ELs enrolling for the first time in a U.S. school may be found in the current school year’s Student Assessment Handbook on the GaDOE Testing website at <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx>. The Student Assessment Handbook (SAH) is updated annually.

ACCESS

### Annual Assessment

ACCESS for ELLs is administered annually to all English learners in Georgia. It is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English language learners’ social and academic proficiency and progress in English. It assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies within the school context and across the four language domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. ACCESS for ELLs meets the Title I mandate in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 that requires states to evaluate ELs in grades K through 12 on their progress in learning to speak English.

Only certified personnel who have completed the required WIDA training for the ACCESS for ELLs are permitted to administer the annual proficiency assessment. GaDOE Assessment and Accountability division requires annual WIDA ACCESS for ELLs training for all certified personnel who will administer the assessment and provides the LEA System Testing Coordinators with information regarding access to the WIDA training website.