

# Changes are coming to ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 scores

## Make plans and spread the word today!

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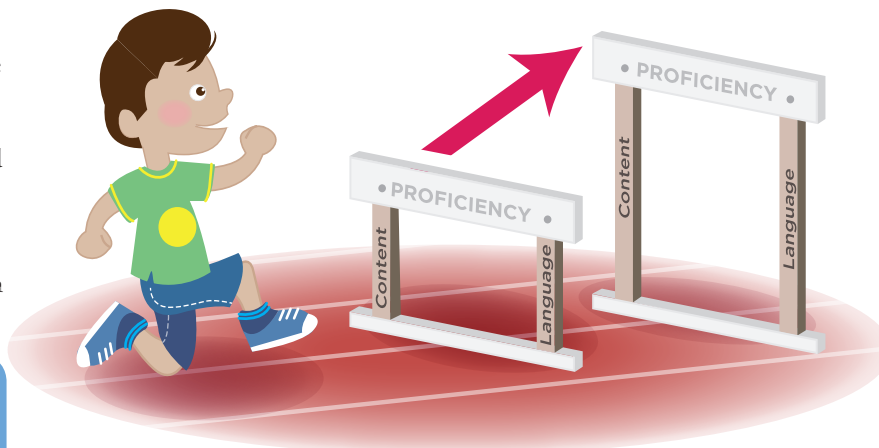
### What is Changing?

To meet language demands of college and career readiness standards, we are raising the bar for language proficiency. Students will need to showcase higher language skills in 2016–2017 to achieve the same proficiency level scores (1.0–6.0). This is the result of a process called **Standard Setting**. Standard setting determines the student performance required for each proficiency level through a series of decisions made for each grade level by expert panels of teachers as well as district and state English language learner administrators.

**Standard setting is expected to impact ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 scores in 2017 in the following ways:**

- Some students' scores may go down
- Fewer students may exit program support

### Another way to think about this:



Corresponding to the elevated content standards and assessments, expectations on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 are increasing. Each student will need rigorous and well developed “training” to prepare for and clear the higher hurdles.

### Why is this Happening?

When standards and accountability systems change, it is good practice to conduct standard setting studies to ensure that an assessment's results reflect up-to-date achievement goals. This gives everyone confidence that the test provides the information it should to support decisions impacting students' education.

The last WIDA standard setting was conducted in 2007. Since then...

- New academic content standards and assessments have increased the academic language demands on all students to be successful, or college and career ready.
- The 2012 Amplification of the English Language Development Standards was developed with input from leaders in the field and educators in WIDA Consortium member states.
- WIDA has released enhanced ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessments, based on the 2012 Amplification of the ELD Standards, and now has many students testing online.
- The online Speaking assessment is now centrally rated rather than locally scored.

### Tips to Prepare for 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Score Reports

1. Review additional information that WIDA will provide to increase your awareness of what is changing, how much, and why.
2. Communicate with educators early and often so there are no surprises when score reports are released. Educators will need to be ready to help students and families understand the change.
3. Work with your district administration and/or state education agency to discuss program exit criteria. Find out if and when this is changing, and what they anticipate will happen if the number of students in your program changes.
4. Think about what initiatives may be impacted. Questions to consider might include:
  - Do we need to adjust our professional learning offerings?
  - Should we edit our templates for measuring student growth?
  - What kinds of resources should we share with families and present to school leaders on this topic?
5. Visit [wida.us/proficiency](http://wida.us/proficiency) for more resources to be released throughout 2016–17.



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