

ACCESS for ELLs Discussion Points

2018-19 Academic School Year

What is ACCESS for ELLs?

- An assessment that measures language proficiency in four areas (reading writing, speaking and listening) to determine the continued need of the ELL program
- Only English Language Learners (ELL students) take the state mandated exam
- It is not high-stakes, but simply helps determine the need for language support in education

Identify current support systems in place for ELL students in your classroom and in the school

- What is meant by the score breakdowns in ACCESS?
- What does a child's score mean? (scale of fluency, graduating the program, etc.)

What are “next steps” and things parents can do with my student at home?

- How can a parent support learning in the English Language at home (i.e. encouraging reading in the language, checking for homework completion, etc.)?

As with any assessment, this is only one measure of a student's academic performance. It is only through *multiple* assessments (for example, teacher developed assessments, state and district assessments) that we are able to develop a clearer picture of a student's current level of performance as well as their growth over time.

Further information and resources for families and educators about this and all district and state assessments can be found on our website: mmsd.org/assessment

Questions? Contact:
Office of Assessment Administration

608-663-5217

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