



Colorado State Tests During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Access for English Language Learners



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Each year in Colorado and across the country, students in Kindergarten through 12th grade who are learning the English language are given an assessment called the ACCESS for English Language Learners. This test provides important information for parents, teachers and school leaders about the progress our emerging bilingual students are making in learning English.

1. The test helps you and your child's teacher monitor your child's progress in learning English.
2. The test helps you and your child's teacher know if adjustments are needed in instruction in order to help your child succeed in learning English.
3. The test helps teachers know when your child is proficient in English and no longer needs English language development classes or support.

Testing during the COVID-19 pandemic

The ACCESS tests are required to be given in-person, but testing will occur only if and when state and local health orders, as well as district policies for COVID-19, allow students and staff to safely be in school buildings. Like so many other things this year, our protocols for conducting the English language testing will look different in order to protect the health and safety of our students and teachers.

Here are some steps we have taken to keep students and staff safe during the tests:

- We added additional health safety procedures during the test including, limiting the sharing of materials, sanitizing materials when possible, ensuring adequate spacing between students, increasing ventilation, and ensuring students and staff wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after the test.
- The dates during which the test can be given have been extended by the Colorado Department of Education, which gives us more flexibility to schedule the tests when it is safe for students and staff and more time to make plans for the best health safety practices.

We will continue to monitor health data for our community and will make any other changes to our ACCESS testing plans necessary to keep our students, families and staff safe.

Access for English Language Learners

Special Considerations for Remote Learners

We will only administer ACCESS if health orders and district policies allow our school buildings to be open. If your children are learning from home when ACCESS tests are given, we will invite them into the school building for the tests. Students will test following social distancing requirements and additional precautions will be in place, such as keeping materials sanitized. However, we understand that you must consider your family's health needs in making the decision to participate. We know that families have individual health considerations, including family members who are at higher risk, such as grandparents, so we understand if coming into our school buildings is not right for your children.

Whether your children come in for ACCESS testing is your decision, and no negative consequences will be imposed should you choose not to send them.

Testing calendars are included in this communication. Please look over the schedules to ensure your student will be in school those days if possible.

For any questions, please reach out to:

Bunny Taylor-District Assessment Coordinator - btaylor@lakecountyschools.net

Katherine Kerrigan-7-12 School Assessment Coordinator – kkerrigan@lakecountyschools.net

Kari Crum -7-12 ELD Teacher – kcrum@lakecountyschools.net

Leah Delynko –K-6 ELD Teacher – ldelynko@lakecountyschools.net

LEARN MORE

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/parentfactsheet>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks>

View all CDE fact sheets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs>