

ACCESS

Description of the test:

The ACCESS is a standardized assessment of English proficiency. In contrast to an academic achievement assessment, the ACCESS is not a measure of academic ability. It has been designed to assess language proficiency. The results ranging from level 1 to level 6 describe the spectrum of a learner's progression from knowing little to no English to acquiring the English skills necessary to be successful in an English-only mainstream classroom without extra support. Level 7 is used for students who are native English speakers or who have never been designated as an English Language Learner (ELL).

Why is the test given?

The ACCESS is a federally mandated assessment to monitor English language acquisition.

Who participates in the test?

The ACCESS is a required assessment for all English Language Learners. This includes students that are not currently receiving English as a Second Language (ESL) or bilingual services.

When are the results available?

The ACCESS is typically administered in December and January. Results are sent to districts in late spring.

How are the results used?

- In the School District of Waukesha, student results are used to examine trends in achievement over time. This includes:
 - tracking individual and collective student progression towards level 6
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction uses results to ensure that a sufficient percentage of students are making adequate progress towards English language proficiency.
- The US Department of Education uses results to monitor the performance of Wisconsin public schools.

How are the results communicated to the community?

Students that participated in the ACCESS receive a student performance report which is mailed home in late spring. A summary of the School District of Waukesha performance is available [here](#).