



Cheryl Watson-Harris, Superintendent

Jennifer Sanders, Principal
Dunwoody Elementary School
1923 Womack Rd.
Dunwoody, GA 30338

December 18, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS ELs is administered, annually, to all English learners in Georgia. ACCESS for ELs is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English learners' social and academic proficiency 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 across the four language domains.

ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS ELs meets the federal requirements that mandate states to evaluate EL students in grades K through 12 on their progress in learning to speak English. Additionally, the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS ELs is used to determine the English language proficiency levels and progress of ELs in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS ELs serves five main purposes:

- determining the English language proficiency level of students;
- providing districts with information that will help them evaluate the effectiveness of their ESOL programs;
- providing information that enhances instruction and learning in programs for English language learners;
- assessing annual English language proficiency gains using a standards-based assessment instrument;
- providing data for meeting federal and state requirements with respect to student assessment.

For the 2020 -2021 school year, the GaDOE's expectation is that DeKalb County School District afford students the opportunity to participate in the **ACCESS/ Alternate ACCESS Assessment**. With that in mind, GaDOE **has not provided** secure provisions for remote testing. Therefore, it is the expectation that each school district provides a secure face to face test environment.

Below are DeKalb's ACCESS/ Alternate ACCESS 2020 - 2021 test procedures:

1. Students must test at their home school.
2. Students must wear face covering or mask for the entire test administration.
3. Limit test participants to 15 students per test session/per examiner.
4. It is **encouraged** that students bring the school technology device.
6. Bus transportation to and from the test site will be provided for students who receive bus transportation during the school year.
7. Bus transportation **WILL NOT** be provided on **MAKE-UP DAYS**.

****If students are showing signs of fever, cough, runny nose, chills, or any other cold-like symptoms, they should not participate in this administration. ****

****The DeKalb County School District will follow all Georgia Health Department and the Center for Disease Control Health and Safety Guidelines as related to the COVID-19 pandemic. ****

Our school will administer the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS as indicated below:

If your child will be returning for face-to-face instruction, the ESOL teacher will send home a schedule.

Remote learners will be sent a separate testing schedule.

Please complete the attached questionnaire for planning purposes.

It is the expectation that every EL student enrolled in our school takes the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS.

If you have questions regarding any aspect of testing, please contact Natrina Jones (Testing Coordinator) at 675-875-4002 or email at Natrina_Jones@dekalbschoolsga.org

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sanders, Principal