

ACCESS Test for ELLs Exit Criteria in Kentucky

The ACCESS Test:

English Learners (ELs) in the state of Kentucky must take the ACCESS each year in order to determine their English language proficiency (ELP). The ACCESS Test assesses ELP in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The scores in the areas are then combined in order to provide ELP scores in Literacy (reading + writing), Oral Language (listening + speaking) and an Overall ELP Score.

The ACCESS Test has three Tiers of difficulty. Tier I is intended for students at the beginning to lower intermediate levels of English proficiency. Tier B is intended for students who are at the lower intermediate to lower advanced levels of proficiency, and Tier C is intended for students at the advanced levels of proficiency.

Exit Criteria:

In the state of Kentucky, EL students are eligible to exit from EL Programs when they achieve an overall score of 5.0 or higher on a Tier B or C ACCESS Test. The student must also have a Literacy Score of 4.0 or higher.

It is important to note that exiting EL programs is not based on a single score, and many kinds of assessment data can be used to determine when an EL student is ready to exit.

EL students who meet the Exit criteria on the ACCESS **do not** necessarily have to exit programs. A committee of educators and the parents can determine that it is best for the student to remain in EL Programs.

Students who meet the Exit criteria on the ACCESS will never take the ACCESS again, even if a committee determines that a particular student is not ready to exit programs.