

September 23, 2011

ACCESS for ELLs[®] Series 203 Changes

In addition to the annual refreshment of test items, the following enhancements were made to the ACCESS for ELLs test for this year:

New for the Speaking Test in 2011-2012:

- Tier B and C students will now skip T1 tasks on the Speaking Test, unless they fail to meet T2 expectations on Parts A or B. This change was made in order to better communicate to students at higher proficiency levels the amount of language they are expected to produce.
- A comprehensive tutorial that explains changes to Speaking test administration procedures and provides further details of the rationale for the T2 change will be available in the ACCESS for ELLs online training course at www.wida.us in mid-October.
- The ACCESS for ELLs online test administrator training course will soon include new sound files at each language proficiency level in the speaking test module. These additional examples will help to clarify the scoring process on the ACCESS for ELLs Speaking test. The additional files will be available within the Speaking Module of the online training course by mid-November.

New for the Writing Test in 2011-2012:

- The Grades 3-12 Tier A tests will now feature a Language of Language Arts (LoLA) writing task for Part B, instead of the current Language of Mathematics (LoMA) writing task. Part A remains a Social Instructional (SI) task and Part C an integrated Language of Mathematics (LoMA)/Language of Science (LoSC) task. The number of writing tasks remains unchanged.

The Listening and Reading test procedures remain unchanged.

Please contact Carsten Wilmes (608.263.5547, wilmes@wisc.edu) with any questions.