



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

May 8, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: English Language Proficiency Assessments Test Administration Schedule for the 2015-2016 School Year

As required in Section 1111 (b) (7) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), school divisions must annually assess the English proficiency of all limited English proficient (LEP) students in kindergarten through grade 12. The following information should be shared with division staff as appropriate.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the new, online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test will be administered as the English language proficiency (ELP) assessment to LEP students in grades 1 through 12. A paper/pencil format of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test also will be available for school divisions to administer. The Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs® test and the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ test remain unchanged and available only in the paper/pencil format.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the statewide English ELP assessments testing window will open Monday, January 11, 2016, and will close Friday, April 1, 2016. LEP students must be assessed with one of the following ELP assessments during this testing window.

- ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 online test (a headset with earphones and a microphone is required for online testing);
- ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 paper/pencil test;
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ paper/pencil test;
- Virginia English Language Proficiency Checklist for Limited English Proficient Students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 with Hearing and Visual Impairments; or
- Virginia English Language Proficiency Checklist for Limited English Proficient Students in Kindergarten with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.

For the new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test (online and paper/pencil) and the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ test (paper/pencil only):

A detailed testing schedule for the 2015-2016 school year is attached. This testing schedule includes important dates and deadlines for the administration of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test and the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ test.

For the Virginia English Language Proficiency (ELP) Checklists:

The Virginia ELP Checklists must be administered during the statewide ELP assessments testing window. Details regarding the administration of the Virginia ELP Checklists will be sent at a later date.

If you have questions, please contact student assessment staff at student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2102.

SRS/SLR/cd

Attachment:

- A. [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ 2015-2016 Test Administration Schedule](#) (PDF)