

WOODROW WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
1800 COTTMAN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is currently receiving instruction in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program. In order to determine the progress students are making in their English language proficiency, students in ESL are assessed annually using the ACCESS for ELLs test. Even though schools are currently remote due to COVID-19, the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires ACCESS for ELLs testing by law, and the district is not allowed to give the test remotely. Therefore, the District is planning to invite students into school buildings to take the test, with a start date to be determined and based on the district's plan to return to school. This plan may change, but below is some information about the test. There is nothing you need to do right now about the test. Your child's school will contact you with more information.

Name of Test: ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners)

Testing Window: TBD - March 19, 2021 (Once the district announces a plan to return to school, your school will provide a testing schedule for your child. Your child will take the test for one to three days during this time period.)

Location: In person at your child's school

Important information:

- The test will measure your child's level of English proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Test results will be shared with you over the summer or early next school year.
- The District is not allowed to give the test remotely. The test can only be given in person, either on a computer or with pencil and paper or a combination of both.
- If your school is going to administer the test online, your child may be required to bring his/her district-issued computer to school.
- School staff will follow the guidelines in the District's Health and Safety plan, including social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitizing equipment.
- **Your child will still continue to receive ESL services** even if he/she does not take the test; however, the test will help your school to best support your child.

If you have any questions or concerns about bringing your child to school to take the test, please contact Lisa Darnowsky, ESOL Coordinator (267) 573-9247, edarnowsky@philasd.org, or your child's ESOL teacher. Otherwise, your school will contact you with further instructions.

For updates on the district's plans for a return to school, visit <https://www.philasd.org/coronavirus/schoolstart2020/>

Sincerely,

Office of Assessment and Office of Multilingual Curriculum and Programs