

English Language Learner Program

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
520 Fifth Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701 • (907) 452-2000 ext. 11488 • ELL@k12northstar.org



December 9, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is currently eligible for English Language Learner (ELL) Program support services. In order to determine the progress ELL students are making in their English language proficiency, all ELL students are assessed annually using the ACCESS for ELLs test. The State of Alaska requires ACCESS for ELLs testing by law, and the School District is not allowed to give the test remotely.

Name of Test: ACCESS for ELLs. For more information about ACCESS for ELLs, please visit <https://wida.wisc.edu/>

Testing Window: February 1 - March 31, 2022 (Your school will provide a testing schedule for your child.)

Location: In person at your child's school

Important Information:

- The test will measure your child's level of English proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Test results will be shared with you over the summer through PowerSchool Parent Portal and by mail early next school year.
- The test can only be given in person; most students take the test on a Chromebook but some students may take the test on paper.
- School staff will follow the guidelines in the School District's health and safety plan.
- If your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) due to a disability, appropriate testing accommodations, as stated in the IEP, will be provided.
- Students in Alaska exit ELL Program services when they reach an overall proficiency level of 4.5 in the ACCESS for ELLs test. Scores range from 1.0 (beginner) to 6.0 (fluent).
- You as a parent/guardian can decline ELL Program services for your student. However, we are required to continue to annually assess your student's English Language Proficiency until your student meets the State of Alaska defined exit criteria.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ELL Program staff at your student's school or myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Virva Elliott".

Virva Elliott
Director of ELL Program
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
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(907) 452-2000 ext. 11467