



ACCESS for ELLs Paper Tier Placement Protocol: 2019–2020

In 2018–2019, WIDA changed the tier structure of ACCESS for ELLs Paper by consolidating the Tier B and Tier C test forms into a single Tier B/C test form for the Listening and Reading domains. The Speaking and Writing domains remained unchanged from past years (these two domains were already divided into Tiers A and B/C). The consolidated Tier B/C Listening and Reading test forms target Proficiency Levels 3–5.

Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	Level 6 - Reaching
<p>TIER A is most appropriate for English language learners who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have arrived in the U.S. or entered school in the U.S. within this academic school year without previous instruction in English, OR • currently receive literacy instruction ONLY in their native language, OR • have recently tested at the lowest level of English language proficiency 		<p>TIER B/C is most appropriate for English language learners who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have social language proficiency and are beginning to approach or have acquired academic language proficiency in English, OR • have acquired some literacy in English or are approaching grade level literacy in English, OR • will likely meet the state's exit criteria for support services by the end of the academic year 			

Tier Placement Protocol

As in prior years, educators need to consider the appropriate tier for ELLs who are taking ACCESS for ELLs Paper. WIDA recommends that educators follow the guidelines below and make few changes in student tier placement as a result of the updated tier structure.

Tier placement through 2017–2018	Tier placement in 2018–2019 and beyond	Proficiency level (PL) score guidance
A	A	Overall PL 2.0 or below
B	B/C	Overall PL above 2.0
C	B/C	NA

Additional Considerations

- **Noteworthy Progress:** Some students who previously scored in the 1.0–2.0 range may have demonstrated significant growth since they were last tested and may be ready to take the Tier B/C test. Local educators are the best judges of a student's appropriate test tier.
- **English Literacy Development:** Educators may want to keep in mind their students' literacy skills. Students who have emerging levels of English literacy can find the Tier B/C Writing test challenging, and younger students, particularly those in Grade 1, can find the Tier B/C Reading test challenging.
- **State and District Guidance:** Any guidance your state provides on using PL scores to determine tier placement can be found on your state's ACCESS for ELLs Checklist.