

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Between February 4 and March 22, your child will be taking the WIDA ACCESS test. This test will allow students to demonstrate their proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking English.

A State and Federal Requirement. The State of Minnesota and the United States Department of Education require us to administer this test to determine how well we are serving our English Learners. We are required to test two groups of students:

- the students who are receiving ESL services, and
- the “waived” students (students who are eligible for ESL but whose parents have decided not to authorize services).

Is Your Child Learning English? For both groups of students, the question is the same: How well is your child learning English in the MPS schools?

This test is designed to answer that and other important questions:

- How well does your child speak, understand, read and write academic English?
- Is your child making progress in learning academic English?
- How can the schools and teachers best educate your student?

Given the importance of these questions, it is very important that every student take the test and try their hardest.

Time Required. For English Learners, the time required for testing is as follows:

- Kindergarten: 45 minutes per student (administered individually)
- Grades 1-12:
 - 15-minute speaking test (administered individually) AND
 - 75-minute reading/listening test (administered as a group), AND
 - 75-minute writing test (administered as a group)

This may require a slight disruption of classes, but we'll try hard to keep this to a minimum.

Results. Your child's results will be shared with you as soon as they become available. In addition, we'll share information about how Minneapolis children in general are doing.

More information. Parents and students can find more information about this test at the WIDA website:

<http://www.wida.us/standards/elp.aspx>

Thank you very much for your support in this. If you have any questions, please contact your child's ESL or classroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Jana Hilleren
Executive Director, Multilingual Department