Preparing Students for ACCESS for ELLs Paper

Sample Items

Sample items are representative of the format and structure of actual test items and tasks. They are similar in difficulty and depth to the items and tasks students complete on testing day, and they are a helpful preparation tool even for students who have taken the test in prior years.

Sample items do not simulate a complete test experience. They do not cover the full range of content or performance level expectations students encounter on the test.

WIDA recommends that you print the sample item PDF files double sided, so you can present the items to students just as they appear in the test booklet. In addition to the PDFs, there are audio files for the Speaking and Listening items.

When students are completing sample items:

- Answer questions about test content, tools, and procedures.
- Rephrase test directions. If allowed under your state's testing policy, it's okay to translate test directions into the student's home language.
- Don't interrupt those who are working independently.
- Don't confirm or correct students' responses.

Student Support

Talk with all students about using universal tools during testing just as they do in the classroom. Tools that any student can use at any time on the test include:

- Audio aids
- Color overlays
- Highlighters, colored pencils, or crayons
- Line guides or tracking tools
- Magnifiers
- Scratch paper

Young students or those with limited standardized testing experience might need extra instruction and reminders on how to mark responses by filling in circles completely.

Students with an active Individualized Education Program or 504 Plan may be able to use a variety of additional accommodations when testing. All students need plenty of opportunity to become familiar with any accessibility support they'll use during testing.

Find details on allowed testing tools in the Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement, available on [Accessibility and Accommodations page](#) of the WIDA website.

If possible, read the Test Administrator Script before testing day. Familiarity with the script will help you present information naturally and plan for breaks and transitions.