



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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August 27, 2020

**TO** LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

**FROM** David Stegall, Ed.D. *DS*  
Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

Angie Mullennix, Ed.D. *AM*  
Director of K-12 Academics and Innovation Strategy

Tammy L. Howard, Ph.D. *TH*  
Director of Accountability Services

## ENGLISH LEARNER ACCOMODATIONS

With schools operating remotely as we begin the 2020–21 school year, students may be identified as English learners (ELs) based on the WIDA remote screener or the Family/Caregiver Interview. Based on the outcomes of these assessments, students may be provisionally identified as English Learners, and as such, are eligible for instructional and testing accommodations and classroom modifications. When students are identified as ELs using the W-APT or WIDA Screener, accommodations are determined based on reading proficiency levels. Since the provisional screeners do not have scores, we are providing direction for determining instructional and testing accommodations as well as classroom modifications for students with provisional identifications.

The U.S. Department of Education has directed states to provide language supports to the greatest extent possible. In keeping with this directive, please refer to the [North Carolina Guidelines for Testing Students Identified as English Learners for providing testing accommodations](#). School-based English as a Second Language teams will use their expertise to determine appropriate instructional and testing accommodations and instructional modifications, taking into consideration information gained during parent/caregiver interviews and available academic records.

As required by State Board of Education policy TEST-011, all students who qualify as English Learners (ELs) under the WIDA Remote Screener or Family/Caregiver Interview must be screened using the W-APT or WIDA Screener within forty-five (45) calendar days of schools returning to face-to-face instruction. Based on these test results, accommodations will need to be updated in a student's EL plan.

### K-12 STANDARDS, CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

6341 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699 | (984) 236-2813

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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Thank you for your continued collaboration as we serve our students during this time, and if more information is needed, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

DS/AM/TH:ab

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