

## **Frequently Asked Questions for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Fall 2009 Pilot Test**

### **1. Will the students who pilot the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs be excused from taking the ACCESS for ELLs this coming January – March?**

Unfortunately, no. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is still an assessment measure in development and has not yet been federally approved; therefore it cannot take the place of the annually required ELP assessment fulfilled by administration of the ACCESS for ELLs. The pilot test is strictly voluntary. Once the data from the pilot assessment is received and analyzed, necessary revisions will be made to the assessment in preparation for field testing in the spring of 2010. Ideally the full-scale rollout of the approved Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will take place in the 2010-2011 school year.

### **2. When is the pilot to take place?**

The project team is receiving information from states, districts and schools daily. We have a target number of students in each grade cluster that we would like to assess with the pilot. The larger the number of students, the shorter the pilot can be, which would mean less of a time commitment for test administrators. As soon as the received numbers are close enough to the goal, the team will move forward with dissemination of testing documents and materials.

### **3. What information do I need to provide the project team?**

No student names are required, just basic student data: a) name of the district, b) name of the school, c) number of the student(s), d) grade(s) of the student(s), d) L1 of each student, and e) contact name with email of the person who would be administering the test items. This information can be emailed to [wohlferd@wisc.edu](mailto:wohlferd@wisc.edu).

### **4. Will parent consent be required?**

Yes. Once all information from item 3 is received, parent information and consent documents will be provided in the home language (if possible).

### **5. How long will it take me to administer the test to each student?**

The time will vary. It is not anticipated that any student's assessment should take more than one hour. Many students will complete the pilot items in a fraction of that time, depending upon their ELP level and specific disability.

### **6. Are there specific disabilities that are the target for the assessment?**

The assessment is being developed with students with significant cognitive disabilities in mind. This is a wide range of possible classifications including, but not limited to: autism, Asperger's, cognitively disabled/mentally retarded, multiple disabilities. A student who does not have a documented disability or is without an IEP, but has previously had trouble completing all four domains (listening, speaking, reading, writing) of the ACCESS due to their disability, is a candidate for the pilot test.

### **7. Will I receive training on how to administer the pilot?**

Yes. When testing materials are disseminated, directions for administering the pilot will be included. There will also be a once-per-week call-in conference call throughout the pilot window so that the project team

can field your questions and receive comments and feedback. More information about this will be sent with the testing materials as well.

**8. Is everyone in my state piloting the assessment?**

No. As stated previously, this pilot test is strictly voluntary. Also, the population of ELLs with significant disabilities is not so large that every school would need to participate.

**9. What is expected of the student participant?**

Each student that participates will be administered a series of performance based items, similar to those used in the ACCESS for ELLs. There are prompts and questions in all five standard areas (Social and Instructional Language, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) that include all four language domains (listening, speaking, reading and writing). The activities have been modified and adjusted to accommodate for students with cognitive impairments.

If you have questions that are not addressed in this document, please email Alternate ACCESS for ELLs project manager Jessica Wohlferd at [wohlferd@wisc.edu](mailto:wohlferd@wisc.edu).

Thanks very much! We look forward to working with you!