

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO W-APT (WIDA-ACCESS PLACEMENT TEST)

Assessments provide valuable information for students, parents and educators on whether students have mastered grade level and content standards and are on track to graduate prepared for the 21st century. These assessment results are intended to provide one measure in a body of evidence of your child's academic progress.



WHAT IS W-APT?

The WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test is an English language proficiency “screener” given to new students to the district in grades K-12 who may be designated as English learners (ELs). It assists educators with the identification of ELs and proper placement into programs. W-APT measures social and academic language in the four language areas of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Social language is used to communicate in everyday situations while academic language is used to communicate in the classroom.



WHEN IS MY CHILD BEING TESTED?

W-APT is administered one time to English learners in grades K-12 when they first enter the district. It is administered within 10 days of enrollment and can be administered at any time throughout the school year.



WHAT SCORE(S) WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

Students in grades 1-12 will receive a score for each section of the test: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. They will also receive 3 composite scores that are derived from the individual scores.

- Oral – combines speaking (50%) and listening (50%)
- Literacy – combines reading (50%) and writing (50%)
- Overall – combines listening (15%), speaking (15%), reading (35%), and writing (35%),

A proficiency level is reported for each of these with 1 being the lowest and 6 being the highest.

1 – Entering

2 – Beginning

3 – Developing

4 – Expanding

5 – Bridging

6 - Reaching

Students who take the kindergarten assessment which may include 1st graders during the first semester of the school year will receive diagnostic information to help inform the teacher of the student's English abilities. A raw score is generated which is then used to look up the skills that the student is capable of completing. For the speaking and listening sections, a combined score is reported which ranges from Low, Mid, Hi, or Exceptional.



HOW WILL THESE SCORES BE USED?

The results serve as a baseline of the child's English language abilities upon entering the district. This helps in the identification process for English learners. A team of school teachers and administrators use the score to determine if a student needs additional support with English. Students who score high enough may be classified as proficient upon entry into the district.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on assessments, please visit the Accountability, Research, and Evaluation website: <http://testing.dpsk12.org>

To learn more about WIDA and the assessments they publish, please visit www.wida.us/assessment/.

We encourage you to be involved in your child's education. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher for ways you can help your child at home and availability of testing accommodations.

We also encourage you to go to <http://standards.dpsk12.org/standards-resources/> to find helpful information, including:

- A Parent's Guide to Technology
- Information for English Learners
- Colorado state resources

If you have questions or concerns about assessments, please contact your child's school directly or call Family Constituency Services at (720) 423-3054.