



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-173

TO: School District Superintendents
Title III Directors
Principals
Assessment Coordinators
Special Education Directors
English Learner (EL) Teachers

FROM: Robin Holbrook, Education Consultant
Standards, Learning, and Accountability Division

DATE: December 3, 2012

SUBJECT: **Alternate** Accessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Learners (Alternate ACCESS for ELLs®) 2012 Information

TIME SENSITIVE

This communication is intended for any educator who will administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs® 2013 annual assessment.

World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) has developed the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™, which is available for administration during 2012-2013 school year, and in which Wyoming has chosen to participate. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ is the first test developed specifically for EL students with significant cognitive disabilities. It is an individually administered paper and pencil test and intended *only for English learners with significant cognitive disabilities severe enough to prevent meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs™ assessment*. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ can be administered to Active EL students who qualify to take the state's alternate content assessment, PAWS – ALT. It is not for all students who qualify for special education services. Active EL students that qualify for special education services who take the state's content assessment, PAWS, must also take the ACCESS for ELLs™, not the Alternate Access for ELLs™. A link to order the Alternate ACCESS will be included with the established ACCESS ordering process.



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The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is providing **required** administration training for all qualified personnel who will serve as **new test administrators** for the 2013 Alternate

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ACCESS for ELLs®. Teams of educators (EL teachers, Special Ed teachers, Counselors, administrators) who work with these students are encouraged to attend the training. All **new test administrators** must attend this training. The training will take place on January 23, 2013. The location will be determined based on districts participating in this assessment. All participants must register via the link below.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/23G8MKF>

If you have any questions, please contact Robin Holbrook at 307-777-5217 or robin.holbrook@wyo.gov.

RH:dr