

Suggested Strategies and Accommodations for Testing ELLs *(These are to be used as guidelines by classroom teachers)*

Standardized and Classroom Tests:

- Read the instructions out loud. Explain in the native language if necessary (and possible).
- Check students after a few minutes of test-taking to make sure they understood the instruction and are on track.
- Allow state designated word-to-word bilingual dictionaries when appropriate.
- Teach test-taking skills and practice on sample items throughout instruction.

Classroom Assessments:

- Teach to the assessment; let students know in advance how achievement will be measured.
- Align instructional methods and assessment methods.
- Check comprehension frequently throughout instruction.
- Supplement tests with other measures of content understanding such as observation, participation, talking to students, alternative assignments like projects.
- Review test “through the eyes of an ELL”: look for difficult language and cultural bias; provide support such as word banks.
- Read tests to beginning ELLs.
- Allow more time for ELLs or give the test in sections.

Taken from: Enhancing English Language Learning in Elementary Classrooms

Test Modifications When Permitted:

- Test key concepts or main ideas.
- Provide basic vocabulary ahead of time so it can be studied
- Make a simplified language version of the test
- Simplify instruction
- Reduce number of test items
- Provide word banks or use of bilingual dictionary
- Add visual support
- Give students extra time to complete tasks

