# Superintendent’s Memo #187-20

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: July 24, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: English Language Proficiency Assessments Test Administration Schedule for the 2020-2021 School Year

As required in Section 1111(b)(7) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), school divisions must provide an annual assessment of English proficiency to all English learners (EL).

For the 2020-2021 school year, the statewide English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments testing window will open Tuesday, January 19, 2021, and will close Friday, March 19, 2021. All EL must be assessed with one of the following ELP assessments during this testing window:

* ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0 online test (a headset with earphones and a microphone is required for online testing);
* ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0 paper test;
* Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs® test;
* Alternate ACCESS for ELLs® paper/pencil test;
* Virginia English Language Proficiency (ELP) Checklist for English Learner (EL) Students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 with Hearing and Visual Impairments; or
* Virginia English Language Proficiency (ELP) Checklist for English Learners (EL) in Kindergarten with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.

Please be aware that Virginia Department of Education staff understand that COVID-19 may have an impact on testing schedules for the 2020-2021 school year and will work with the testing vendor to provide adjustments to the testing windows if necessary. However, this testing schedule information is being provided to school divisions now so that ELP testing and other activities for the 2020-2021 school year may be scheduled without conflicts.

A detailed ELP assessment test administration schedule for the 2020-2021 school year is attached. This testing schedule includes important dates and deadlines for the administration of the online and paper ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0 test, the Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs® test, the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs® test as well as the Virginia ELP Checklists. Additional ELP Assessment information can also be located on the [Virginia English Language Proficiency Assessment website](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/english_language_proficiency_assessments/index.shtml) or the [Virginia WIDA website](https://wida.wisc.edu/memberships/consortium/va). Details regarding the administration of the Virginia ELP Checklists will be sent at a later date.

If you have questions, please contact student assessment staff at [student\_assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:student_assessment@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2102.

JFL/SLR/as

Attachment:

1. [2020-2021 English Language Proficiency Assessments Test Administration Schedule](http://doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/187-20a.docx) (Word)