# Superintendent’s Memo #332-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: December 31, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Update on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for the 2020-2021 School Year

An extension to the testing window for ACCESS for ELLs testing was previously communicated to school divisions in [Superintendent’s Memo 284-20](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/284-20.docx), dated October 23, 2020.

To allow for maximum flexibility in scheduling test sessions for the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the testing window for the statewide English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments has been extended further. It will open Monday, January 4, 2021, as previously announced, but will now close on Friday, June 25, 2021. School divisions have the flexibility to schedule ELP assessments at any time within this testing window. All EL students are expected to be assessed with one of the following ELP assessments during this testing window:

* ACCESS for ELLs® online test (a headset with earphones and a microphone is required for online testing);
* ACCESS for ELLs® paper test;
* Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs® test;
* Alternate ACCESS for ELLs® paper/pencil test;
* Virginia English Language Proficiency (ELP) Checklist for English Learners (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.

While EL students are expected to be tested with one of the ELP assessments listed above, it is understood that some parents will not permit their students to come to school for testing due to COVID-19 concerns. School divisions should notify parents of the expectation for ELP testing and provide them with information about how to contact the school if they will not allow their student to come to school to test because of concerns related to the pandemic. School division staff should document parental notifications outlining the expectations for testing and any refusals for testing due to COVID-19 concerns.

A more detailed ELP assessment test administration schedule for the 2020-2021 school year will be communicated to Division Directors of Testing. Should the COVID-19 situation warrant an additional extension to the ACCESS for ELs testing window, school divisions will be informed as soon as a decision is made. 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).

If you have questions, please contact student assessment staff at Student\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

JFL/KVJ/tm