



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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March 15, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance Project Lead Persons
District Bilingual/ESL/ELS Point of Contact

FROM: Karen L. Campbell, Director
Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

SUBJECT: Providing English Language Learner (ELL) Program Services during State Assessments

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) has been receiving inquiries regarding the provision of services to English language learners (ELLs) during state assessment testing windows. This correspondence is to confirm that ELLs must continue to receive bilingual, English as a Second Language (ESL), and English language services (ELS) during the state assessment testing window. The Department understands that on the days an ELL is actually tested, the district may need to suspend services (e.g., an ESL instructional period); however, the district may not suspend services for the entirety of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and/or the Partnership for Assessment or Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment testing window.

Requirements of bilingual, ESL, and ELS services are outlined on the Department's webpage <http://www.nj.gov/education/bilingual/policy/programs/>. Districts (including charter schools and renaissance projects) are encouraged to consider the following practices to ensure that Bilingual/ESL/ELS services are conducted in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:15:

- When possible, limit the use of bilingual/ESL/ELS teachers as PARCC proctors during the regular administration and make-up testing windows;
- When bilingual/ESL/ELS teachers are required to be scheduled as PARCC proctors or ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 administrators, ensure that qualified substitutes are available to fulfill the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:15;
- Schedule ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 testing sessions so that students are tested when they normally receive program services. This will allow other classes to receive instruction during their normally scheduled periods; and
- When identifying ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test administrators, consider that any certified district teacher who has taken the online training can administer the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

Thank you for your continued support of ELLs in New Jersey. If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at lep@doe.state.nj.us.

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