

## Culturally Linguistically Diverse Education

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Dear Parents of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse students,

Aurora Public Schools is currently in preparation for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for (ACCESS) testing that will begin after Winter Break. Starting on January 8, 2023, schools will administer this assessment to our multilingual learners in Kindergarten through 12th grade. The ACCESS assessment is an annual evaluation designed to gauge multilingual learners' proficiency in English across four fundamental domains: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. It is not merely a test of acquired English vocabulary; instead, it represents a holistic measurement of a student's mastery of the English language.

**Comprehensive Language Proficiency:** The ACCESS assessment goes beyond mere vocabulary and grammar by evaluating students' overall ability to understand, use, and communicate in English. It provides a well-rounded view of their language proficiency.

**Individualized Growth:** This assessment not only measures the current level of proficiency but also tracks the progress of multilingual learners over time. It helps educators understand each student's specific language needs.

**Decision-Making Tool:** The results of the ACCESS assessment inform critical decisions about a student's placement, instructional strategies, and resource allocation, ensuring that they receive the support tailored to their needs.

Your school might have specific details about how testing will be conducted and additional information will soon be made available as necessary. Also, please be on the lookout for a phone call and email from the Superintendent's office in the first week of January, regarding all state assessments coming this spring.

It is our hope that you have a safe and restful winter break and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Respectfully,

Matthew Joy  
Asst. Director, Assessment