

COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING ASSESSMENT (CELLA)

What is CELLA?

The Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA) is used to measure the growth of students classified as English Language Learners (ELLs) in mastering the skills in English they will need to succeed in school.

CELLA is a four-skill language proficiency assessment developed under contract by Educational Testing Service (ETS) to AccountabilityWorks (AW) that is designed to provide:

- Evidence of program accountability in accordance with Title III of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), which calls for schools and districts to meet state accountability objectives for increasing the English-language proficiency of English Language Learners.
- Data useful for charting student progress over time.
- Information about the language proficiency of individual students that can be used in making decisions regarding placement into, or exit from English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs.
- Diagnostically useful information about students' strengths and weaknesses in English (within the limitations of a large-scale standardized test.)

What does CELLA contain?

The CELLA tests four areas: Listening; Speaking; Reading; Writing. These sections are included in each of the four test levels: A, B, C and D.

CELLA was designed to account for the often wide range of English proficiency levels between ELL students within the same grade, especially at the higher grades and particularly in Reading and Writing. For example, high school ELL students may range in language skills from non-literate in any language to nearly able to transition into challenging 12th grade regular education classes. CELLA uses a functional level approach in assessing Reading and Writing that accurately measures ELL students across the full spectrum of student performance that teachers encounter while providing diagnostically relevant information for each student. In Reading and Writing, CELLA is recommended to be administered as follows:

- Grades 9-12: Levels A, B, C or D.
- Grades 6-8: Levels A, B or C.
- Grades 3-5: Levels A or B.
- Grades K-2: Level A.

The Locator Test, a short test consisting of 18 multiple-choice reading questions, determines which level of the Reading and Writing assessment—A, B, C, or D—is most appropriate for an ELL student taking the CELLA for the first time.

In Speaking and Listening, the functional level approach is not necessary. Students' oral English skills tend to develop much faster than their Reading and Writing skills. Further,

since the Speaking items are individually administered, the assessment allows the administrator to adjust to students' oral language proficiency. The Speaking and Listening sections of CELLA are recommended to be administered as follows: grades 9-12 take level D; grades 6-8 take level C; grades 3-5 take level B; grades K-2 take level A.

For Level A, it is recommended that the entire test be individually administered to students in kindergarten. Students in grades 1 - 12 will take the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections in small groups and will have the One-on-One section individually administered. In addition to the items taken by students in grades K-1, students in grades 2-12 will also take additional "Extension" items in Reading and Writing. The Speaking section is individually administered. It takes approximately 30 minutes to administer the Locator Test.

Test Overview for Level A

Sections	Administration Features	Approx. Time* Gr. K-1	Approx. Time* Gr. 2-12
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-group administered (Individual administration in kindergarten) • Teacher reads script or plays CD 	15 min.	15 min.
Reading (Grades 2-12 includes "extension")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-group administered (Individual administration in kindergarten) 	15 min.	35 min.
Writing (Grades 2-12 includes "extension")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-group administered (Individual administration in kindergarten) 	15 min.	30 min.
One-on-One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually administered to all Level A students 	15 min.	15 min.

Test Overview for Levels B, C, D:

Sections	Administration Features	Approximate Time*
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group administered • Teacher reads script or plays CD 	25 min.
Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually administered • Teacher reads script 	10-15 min.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group administered 	45 min.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group administered 	70 min.

*Times do not include time to distribute materials and complete demographic information.

