

## **ACCESS FOR ELLS English Language Proficiency Test**

A state assessment, federally mandated on an annual basis, for students in grades K-12. It measures Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Oral Language, Literacy, and Comprehension. It is a computerized administrated assessment except for Kindergarten students.

### **Proficiency Levels**

**1- Entering-** knows and uses minimal social language and minimal academic language with visual and graphic support.

**2- Emerging-** knows and uses some social English and general academic language with visual and graphic support.

**3- Developing-** knows and uses social English and some specific academic language with visual and graphic support.

**4- Expanding-** knows and uses social English and some technical academic language

**5- Bridging-** knows and uses social and academic language working with grade level material

**6- Reaching-** knows and uses social and academic language at the highest level.

School Year 2015-2016 Maine Department of Education was using Proficiency Level 6 to exit students from programming.

School Year 2016-2017 WIDA re-calibrated ACCESS test. By all accounts it was more difficult and schools could not compare growth from prior year because test had changed. Maine Department of Education dropped exit criteria to Proficiency Level 5.

**\*\*\*School Year 2018-2019 (October 28, 2018), the Maine Department of Education established a new exit criteria of Proficiency Level 4.5**