



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent



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MONTANA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM



English Language Proficiency Assessments-ALTERNATE ACCESS for ELLs

The ALTERNATE ACCESS FOR ELLs assessment is now available for Montana's students with significant cognitive disabilities who are also limited English proficient (LEP).

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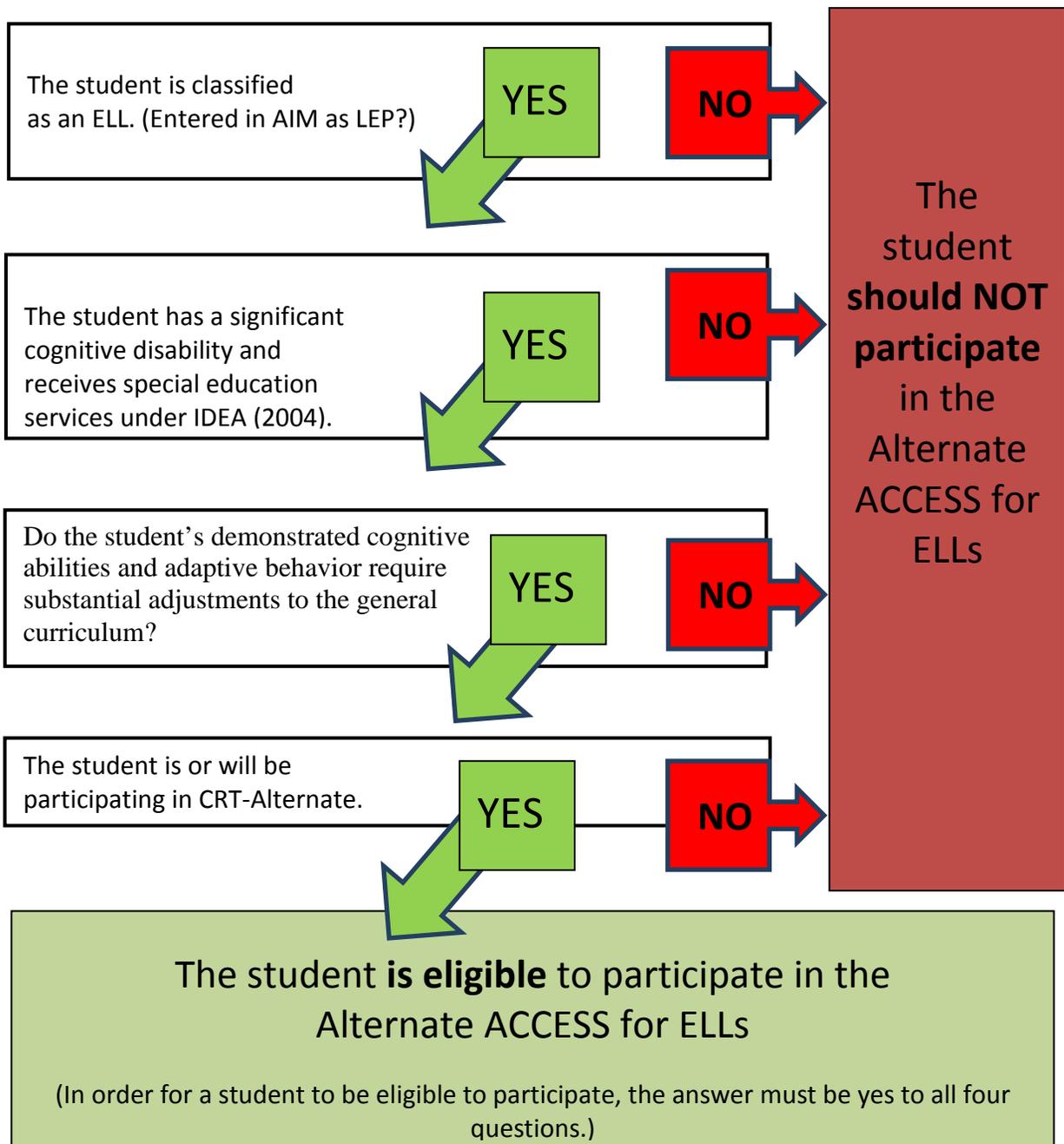
What is the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an assessment of English language proficiency (ELP) for students in grades 1 -12 who are classified as English language learners (ELLs) and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment. WIDA created the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs to meet federal accountability requirements and to provide educators with a measure sensitive to English language proficiency growth of ELLs with significant cognitive disabilities (from the WIDA website). For more detailed information please visit the Alternate ACCESS page on the WIDA website: [WIDA: Alternate ACCESS for ELLs](#)

How do I determine if a student meets the criteria to take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?

The following decision tree, adapted from a document created by WIDA will help to guide Alternate ACCESS for ELLs participation decisions:

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Participation Criteria Decision Tree



**(1)Accommodations and modifications within the general education curriculum were considered; (2)The decision to participate in alternate curriculum (if offered) is not primarily due to social, cultural, or economic factors; (3) The student's curriculum more closely reflects the Alternate Model Performance Indicators (AMPis) than typical age or grade-appropriate benchmarks.*