



# School District of Okeechobee County

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**Chairperson**  
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March 25, 2019

Dear Parent:

Districts are required to offer accommodations to ELL (English Language Learners) students who are currently receiving services in a program operated in accordance with an approved District ELL Plan. Permissible accommodations for these ELL students are listed below. The tests (FSA ELA and Math, FCAT 2.0 Science and E.O.C.s) may be administered with any one of these accommodations or a combination of accommodations that are determined to be appropriate for the particular needs of the ELL student. However, all testing, with or without accommodations, must be completed during the prescribed testing dates.

**Flexible Setting.** ELL students may be offered the opportunity to be tested in a separate room with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or a heritage language teacher acting as test administrator. Parents must be informed of this option for students not of legal age, and shall be given the opportunity to select the preferred method of test administration.

**Flexible Scheduling.** ELL students may take a part or session of the test during several brief periods within one school day; however, a session of the test must be completed within one school day.

**Flexible Timing.** ELL students may be provided additional time; however, a session must be completed within one school day.

**Assistance in the Heritage Language.** For the mathematics and science tests and the prompt portion of the writing test, ELLs may be provided limited assistance by an ESOL or heritage language teacher using the student's heritage language. The teacher may answer specific questions about a word or phrase that is confusing the student because of limited English proficiency, but is prohibited from giving assistance that will help the student solve mathematics problems and answer writing and science test items. A student's questions must not be answered in a way that would lead the student to infer the correct answer to an item. The teacher may answer specific inquiries concerning a word or phrase in a writing assessment prompt that is confusing the student because of limited English proficiency. In no case shall assistance be given to the student in responding to the writing assessment prompt. The teacher is prohibited from reading the entire prompt to the student. If the FSA or FCAT Science is administered to a group of students, the teacher may answer questions about directions for the benefit of the group; questions of clarification from individual students must be answered on an individual basis without disturbing other students.

For the reading test, the ESOL or heritage language teacher may answer student questions about the general test directions in a way that the student would not be led to infer the correct answer to any of the questions. The teacher is prohibited from reading words to the student from the passages, test items, and performance tasks and from answering student questions about the passages, test items, and performance tasks.

In addition to the language above, the ESOL or heritage language teacher may answer student questions about the general test directions in their heritage language. All student responses must be written in English. Responses written in languages other than English will not be scored.

**Dictionary.** ELL students must have access to an English-to-heritage language translation dictionary and/or heritage language-to-English translation dictionary, such as those made available to ELL students in an instructional setting. However, a dictionary providing definitions written exclusively in the heritage language or in English may not be provided. Use of electronic dictionaries is strictly prohibited and may be cause for invalidation.

Sincerely,

*Lonnie Steiert*

Lonnie Steiert  
Director of Student Services



**Achieving Excellence: Putting Students First!**

