



# Questar's ELL and Alternate Assessment Programs

## Open Doors to Academic Success for ELL Students in English-Speaking Classrooms

Questar has a longstanding history of success and innovation in assessment programs that serve English language learners (ELLs). We understand that when ELLs test in a non-native language, **an accessible test experience helps them focus on the content of the test questions.**

To assess students' English-language mastery, our assessments include items that measure reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Questar's speaking items, delivered on the Nextera testing platform, record responses, then store the responses and securely transmit them to Questar scorers.

Finally, to ensure the fairest testing environment possible, we provide ELLs with translated instructions for mathematics assessments.

### Parent Involvement:

- We ensure that language is never a barrier to a parent's involvement in their child's education.
- Our **translated reports** — in the languages most commonly used in your state — help communicate progress to the families of ELL students.

### Scoring:

- Our scoring services team has extensive experience scoring a variety of ELL projects.
- **All ELL readers must pass a test** to certify their reading, writing, speaking, and listening expertise.

## Measure the Progress of Your Special Education Students with a Uniquely Tailored Alternate Assessment Program

We believe in providing special education teachers with the knowledge that will best equip them to serve students with cognitive disabilities. Our approach helps teachers help students realize their highest level of educational potential.

### Training

- We understand that **every state's special education program comes with unique expectations** and standards. We've designed specialized alternate assessment programs for current state clients in Mississippi, New Jersey, Georgia, South Dakota, and Indiana.
- In partnership with clients, **Questar conducts "traveling road show" events**, where Questar representatives visit multiple school districts in your state and set up a base for several days of intensive training for educators and administrators.

### Collection of Evidence

Questar's **Nextera online assessment system features the Collection of Evidence tool** specifically designed to facilitate portfolio-based alternate assessment data collection.

- Previously an expensive and logistically complex manual operation, the Collection of Evidence tool simplifies the process by providing an interface for teachers to attach digital portfolio items — pictures, audio, or video — and **securely transfer files between raters and scorers**.
- The Collection of Evidence tool gives teachers the platform to create evidence collection opportunities that reflect their students' grasp of on-grade-level standards, with evidence **uploaded into each student's digital portfolio**, scored locally, and audited by hand-scorers at Questar.

## Clarity is Key — Principles of Universal Design

Questar's experts in ELL and alternate assessment design apply their knowledge of universal design principles to **all aspects of the text, graphics, and layout** in every assessment we produce.

**Universal design principles ensure the creation of inclusive assessment items that:**

- Respect the diversity of the assessment population
- Have clear pictures and graphics, including only essential illustrations
- Include English language learners and students with disabilities in item tryouts and field/pilot testing
- Are accessible to students of all ages, genders, ethnicities, disabilities and socio-economic levels
- Avoid content that might unfairly advantage or disadvantage any student subgroup