

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | JANUARY 2013

The ASSETS Consortium is on track for implementation of a new online English proficiency assessment system in 2015-16. Michigan and the U.S. Virgin Islands recently joined the consortium, adding their expertise in online assessment and bringing the number of member states to 31. States have been encouraged to participate in one of the ASSETS subcommittees, which are: Accommodations, Reporting, Technology, EL Definition, and Interim Assessment.

In November, the ASSETS Steering Committee and WIDA Executive Committees held their first joint meeting, in Arlington, VA. At the meeting, the Steering Committee and Executive Committee members:

- discussed the transition to ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0,
- provided input on the Test and Item Design Plan,
- viewed test prototypes for the computerized summative assessment and screener and,
- received updates from the subcommittees' initial meetings

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) incorporated Steering Committee feedback into a revised Test and Item Design Plan that was discussed in a full consortium call January 8th.

Over the next quarter, WIDA and project partners will be working together to prepare both technologically and logistically for field testing in Spring 2014. On the January 31st ASSETS Quarterly Call, states will have the opportunity to view and give feedback on the current version of the item prototypes. The items will continue to be revised for field testing, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will assist with developing a pilot and field testing plan to share with the consortium.

MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS

ASSETS SEA quarterly call on January 31 at 2:00pm CST

Member states involved in ASSETS will have an opportunity to view test item prototypes and give feedback to CAL. Chairs of each subcommittee will provide updates.

ASSETS/WIDA Board Meeting – Week of June 3rd 2013

Member states will review and discuss progress on ASSETS test development. States will also participate in policy discussions on implementation and a common EL Definition.

More ASSETS information can be found on the new project website: www.ASSETSproject.org

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

LEAD STATE: WISCONSIN
<p>Troy Couillard Project Director Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction</p>
<p>Phil Olsen Assistant Project Director Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction</p>
<p>Jihan Bekiri Project Coordinator for Member States Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction</p>

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PARTNER
<p>Timothy Boals, Ph.D. Principal Investigator/Executive Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p>Elizabeth Cranley, Ph.D. Co-Principal Investigator/Associate Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p>Carsten Wilmes, Ph.D. Project Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p>Meredith Alt Project Manager for Test Development WIDA Consortium</p>

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACCOMMODATIONS

Dan Wiener (Chair, MA)
Susan Beard (AL)
Drew Linkon (MO)
Boon Lee (IL)
Dely Roberts (AL)
Linda Howley (MI)
Robin Holbrook (WY)
Michelle Blakey-Tuggle (DC)
Carrie Perkis (NC)
Audrey Lesondak (WI)
Terry Richard (DE)

REPORTING

Kerri Whipple (Chair, ND)
Anh Tran (MN)
Helga Fasciano (NC)
Shannon Malone (SD)
Jason Kolb (MI)
Robert Fugate (VA)
Ji Zeng (MI)

INTERIM ASSESSMENT

Nichole Hall (ID)
Erika Bolig (MI)
Kulwadee Axtell (NV)
Jennifer Malonson (MA)
Gay Pickner (SD)
Shereen Tabrizi (MI)
Nadja Trez (NC)
Nancy Mullins (ME)

EL DEFINITION

David Holbrook (Chair, WY)
James McCobb (VT)
Dan Auman (NC)
Leigh Schleicher (MN)
Ruslana Westerlund (MN)
Seon Eun (IL)
Maria Silva (MI)
Crystal Fields (SC)
Raquel Sinai (NJ)
Lodee Arnold (ND)
Michelle Williams (MI)

TECHNOLOGY

Jennifer Paul (Chair, MI)
Brian Swiger (NC)
John Jesse (UT)
Barry Pedersen (IL)
Jan Lanier (TN)
Cheryl Alcaya (MN)
Matthew Ayotte (MI)
Paulette Watson (MA)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In fall 2012, the ASSETS team at WIDA and DPI collaborated with states and project partners to complete the following activities, which are organized by grant deliverable.

1.0 ASSETS Consortium Management

- Approved the Consortium Management Plan, including subcommittee activities
- Held initial subcommittee calls and began to create timelines of key activities
- Subcommittees began conducting foundational work including: research of existing EL definitions and exit criteria among ASSETS states, comparing of purchasing requirements across the assessment consortia, proposed accommodations, and possible avenues for reporting.

2.0 Create an online EL proficiency assessment system aligned with EL proficiency standards that corresponds to college and career ready standards, including:

- Annual summative assessment
 - Continued work on Test and Item Design Plan and item prototypes
- On-demand screener
 - Continued foundational work on screener and summative assessment items
- Interim assessments
 - Held research calls and continued to create Interim Framework Document
- Formative assessment resources
 - Collected language samples in schools and UCLA began analyses that will support development of Dynamic Language Learning Progressions

3.0 Create foundations for technology-based training program for scorers

- The training program for scorers will be developed in 2014

4.0 Create professional development and outreach materials

- Approved Communication Plan of outreach activities and began implementation
- Launched the ASSETS website: www.assetsproject.org

5.0 Evaluate the technical quality, validity, and reliability of the assessments and the effectiveness of the professional development

- Held a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting in October
- Continued work on foundational documents addressing technical quality and validity

6.0 Create a transition plan to scale up and sustain the new assessment system

- Held joint ASSETS Steering Committee/WIDA Committee meeting to discuss ACCESS 2.0 development and planning for post-grant implementation

Communication and Outreach Goals

- Recruitment for Cognitive Lab/Pilot Testing and Field Testing
 - Determine pertinent information to create plans and correspondence to optimize participation of ASSETS states
- Communicate progress on forming common EL definition
 - Provide ASSETS Consortium updates on subcommittee work in forming a common EL definition
 - Give updates on national discourse regarding EL definition