

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | JANUARY 2014

January was a busy and productive month on the ASSETS Project. ASSETS project partners are finalizing all materials for the 2014 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test, which will begin in March. WIDA continues to seek volunteers for the 2014 Field Test and now has several incentives to thank participating districts. Please contact Paula White, pawwhite1@wisc.edu, with recruitment questions.

Steering Committee Announcements:

- John Jesse (UT) is leaving his position at the Utah State Office of Education. We will miss the informative perspective he has brought to ASSETS but wish him well at his new position at ETS!

Subcommittee Updates:

- The Accommodations, Accessibility, and Equity Subcommittee and the Technology Subcommittee provided input on accessibility issues and technology plans for the operational ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- The Reporting Subcommittee will be exploring options for the operational reports, including for Interim reports

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

Test development partners are nearing completion of all materials related to the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test. Throughout January, WIDA and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) held live webinars for Technology Coordinators and Test Coordinators. In addition, DRC released the administrative portal, eDIRECT, the eDIRECT User Guide, and loaded student demographic data to make the test set up process easier for administrators. WIDA, the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), and DRC are finalizing Video Tutorials and Practice Items that will be released in February.

In other areas of the ASSETS project, UCLA continued analysis of student explanation samples as part of the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions development. The team held meetings to plan for professional development modules. WIDA and CAL held design discussions about the Interim assessments as the development team seek to make the new assessments as engaging as possible for students and to provide information that will best assist educators.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND POSTED COMMUNICATIONS

2014 Field Test Activities

Releases to field and webinar trainings:

- *Test Administrator/Proctor Training Webinar (February 11, 2014 at 3:00pm CT)*
- *Video Tutorials (February 17, 2014)*
- *Online Tools Training: Directions and Practice Items (February 17, 2014)*
- *Online Test Administrative Manual for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test (February 17, 2014)*
- *eDIRECT Administrative Interface (Released: Supporting materials available on the ASSETS website)*
- *INSIGHT Test Engine Secure Browser/Local Caching Service (LCS) (Released)*
- *Webinar recordings and new checklists for field test participants, organized by role, is available at <http://assetsproject.org/implementation/fieldtest.aspx#webinar>*

Please contact Paula White at WIDA if you have recommended districts or recruitment questions: pawwhite1@wisc.edu

EL Definition Subcommittee Workshop in Madison, WI (*February 25-26, 2014*)

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)
Grace Gray (AK)

REPORTING

Ursula Lentz (MN)
Helga Fasciano (NC)
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

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Dan Auman (NC)
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Maria Silva (MI)
Crystal Fields (SC)
Raquel Sinai (NJ)
Michelle Williams (MI)
Jonathan Gibson (NV)
Grace Gray (AK)

TECHNOLOGY

Jennifer Paul (Chair, MI)
Brian Swiger (NC)
Andrea Somoza-Norton (NH)
Barry Pedersen (IL)
Jan Lanier (TN)
Cheryl Alcaya (MN)
Matthew Ayotte (MI)
Paulette Watson (MA)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In January 2014, the ASSETS team at WIDA and WDPI collaborated with states and project partners to complete the following activities, which are organized by grant deliverable.

1.0 ASSETS Consortium Management

- o Consulted subcommittees for input on the RFP for the operational ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- o Connected with the other consortia workgroups to increase collaboration on topics affecting all groups (i.e. English Learner definition, technology, and accommodations)

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

- o Annual summative assessment
 - CAL continued to work with WestEd and DRC to finalize and transfer field test items to DRC
 - Continued listening item development
- o On-demand screener
 - Discussed plans for the computerized and paper-based screener as part of the operational RFP
- o Interim assessments
 - Held meetings to discuss design and how best to increase the utility of the Interim assessments for teachers
- o Formative assessment resources – Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
 - Continued to analyze data and code student explanations
 - Collaborated with WIDA on plans for professional development modules

3.0 Create foundations for technology-based training program for scorers

- o The training program for scorers will be developed in 2014

4.0 Create professional development and outreach materials

- o Posted multiple field test communications resources to the ASSETS website to help educators prepare for the 2014 Field Test

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

- o Discussed plans for the interim assessments and validation of work in progress: Dynamic Language Learning Progressions, field test items, and other ASSETS resources

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

- o Held meetings to address WIDA cross-departmental collaboration and overall preparations needed as the consortium transitions to computerized testing

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals

- o Prepare outreach materials for states to disseminate about both the 2015 Field Test and operational test
 - Please note that new information, including updated FAQs and field test information, is regularly added to the ASSETS website: assetsproject.org