ASSETS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | FEBRUARY 2013

The ASSETS Consortium is continuing progress on the new online English proficiency assessment system in 2015-16. During the January ASSETS Quarterly Call, SEAs viewed item prototypes and provided direct feedback to CAL. Additionally, the ASSETS subcommittees have continued foundational work on issues such as:
- researching existing EL definitions and exit criteria among ASSETS states,
- comparing technology purchasing guidelines across the assessment consortia,
- proposing recommendations for online features available for all students and accommodations for students with disabilities in the online and paper/pencil test environment for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0,
- discussing the content of ideal reports and exploring avenues to meet the reporting needs of consortium states.

On March 7th, DRC will be providing a demonstration of the test platform to the Technology Subcommittee to provide clarity regarding necessary technology readiness materials for ASSETS.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

Key activities in test development include revising the Test and Item Design Plan (TIDP) for ACCESS for ELLS 2.0 and screener, drafting a field testing plan to share with SEAs later this spring, and holding research calls related to interim assessment design.

A January SEA call about the Test and Item Design Plan provided an opportunity for ASSETS SEAs to give valuable feedback to the Center for Applied Linguistics. Also, we are delighted to announce that we have begun the initial round of cognitive laboratories as a part of pilot testing. The cognitive labs focus primarily on the student/computer interface and consist of one practice item and one folder for each domain and an interview with the student. A summary of the results to date will be provided to USED during the March monitoring review.

The Interim Assessment research group is continuing work on the conceptualization of the assessments. Currently, CAL and WIDA (with input from the subcommittee), are developing the foundational document. During the interim assessment subcommittee February call, the subcommittee members provided feedback on items including:
- a proposal for test organization and design
- reporting features

The input provided by members during the interim assessment subcommittee call will shape CAL/WIDA work and will be elaborated upon at the board meeting this June.

Additionally, WIDA is focusing interoperability efforts by establishing regular meetings with relevant project partners in February. The project partners also attended an extensive training on interoperability at CAL.

MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Over the next month, WDPI and WIDA will be holding calls with USED to discuss project progress and monitoring procedures in detail. WIDA and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will continue development of a pilot and field testing plan to best prepare the consortium for pilot and field testing.

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

LEAD STATE: WISCONSIN
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Phil Olsen Assistant Project Director Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
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PROJECT MANAGEMENT PARTNER
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In February 2013, 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
- Outreach to other assessment consortia workgroups to increase collaboration on topics affecting all groups (i.e. EL definition, technology and accommodations)
- Continued discussions with USED to encourage cross-consortia collaboration on forming a common English Learner definition
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction held a presentation on ASSETS at the Winter EL SCASS in Atlanta, GA

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, item prototypes, and student responses to the prototypes
    - Held discussions and training to ensure that items are interoperable
- On-demand screener
    - Continued foundational work on screener and summative assessment items
- Interim assessments
    - Held research calls focused on defining overall purpose and discussing possible design options and implications
- Formative assessment resources
    - Continued language sample analyses that will support UCLA's 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
- Continuing implementation of outreach activities in Communication Plan

5.0   Evaluate the technical quality, validity, and reliability of the assessments and the effectiveness of the professional development
- 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
- Planning for a combined WIDA/ASSETS June board meeting

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals
- Facilitate the recruitment process for pilot testing and field testing
    - Continue development of plans to optimize participation of ASSETS states
    - Present finalized plans to the ASSETS Board at the June 2013 meeting
- Foster cross-consortia communication on relevant issues such as technology and EL definition.