

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | FEBRUARY 2014

February proved to be an exciting month on the ASSETS project. With the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test beginning in March, all ASSETS test development partners are focused on final preparations before our students begin testing. WIDA also released the operational test Request for Proposals (RFP), thus moving ahead with important transition plans for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0!

Subcommittee Updates:

- EL Definition Subcommittee held a workshop at WIDA in Madison, WI on February 25-26 to discuss:
 - Defining an English learner: grant requirements and relation to national discussion
 - WIDA/ASSETS Home Language Survey and considerations for administration
 - Next steps include subcommittee discussion on a draft definition and HLS procedures to share proposals at WIDA Board Meeting
- Accommodations, Accessibility, and Equity Subcommittee held a call on February 26 to discuss:
 - Plans for accommodations listed in the operational RFP
 - Finalizing Accommodations policy documents and creating professional development resources

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

After months of hard work, test development partners completed final reviews of all ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field test forms and materials for 2014 testing! Training materials have all been released and are posted to the ASSETS website and to DRC's eDIRECT administrative system, as outlined on the Preparation Materials page of the ASSETS website:

<http://assetsproject.org/implementation/fieldtest.aspx#webinar>

Key materials include:

- A new Ready to Go Packet outlining final steps
- Detailed checklists for Technology Coordinators, Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators
- Recorded webinar trainings for Technology Coordinators, Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators
- Video Tutorials (publicly available through eDIRECT) and Practice Items (require log-in)
- An Online Test Administration Manual for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test

In terms of new development, CAL and WIDA continue to revise the design and prototypes for the Interim assessments and to develop Listening items for 2015-16. UCLA will be presenting on their initial findings regarding Dynamic Language Learning Progressions and are collaborating with WIDA on professional development modules.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Upcoming State Education Agency (SEA) activities on the ASSETS project include:

- Opportunities for SEAs to review vendor responses to the RFP
- Administration of the ACCESS 2.0 Field Test: *March 3 – June 30*

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all SEAs for your support of our field testing activities! We recognize that participating in testing activities is a challenge for many districts this year, and your efforts to help us reach participants for the Grades 1-3 reading test (current need) are much appreciated. Please contact Paula White at WIDA (pawhite1@wisc.edu) with any district or school leads.

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>

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>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

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Robert Fugate (VA)
Ji Zeng (MI)

INTERIM ASSESSMENT

Nichole Hall (ID)
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Jennifer Malonson (MA)
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Shereen Tabrizi (MI)
Nadja Trez (NC)
Nancy Mullins (ME)

EL DEFINITION

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James McCobb (VT)
Dan Auman (NC)
Leigh Schleicher (MN)
Seon Eun (IL)
Maria Silva (MI)
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Raquel Sinai (NJ)
Michelle Williams (MI)
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Grace Gray (AK)

TECHNOLOGY

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Brian Swiger (NC)
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Barry Pedersen (IL)
Jan Lanier (TN)
Cheryl Alcaya (MN)
Matthew Ayotte (MI)
Paulette Watson (MA)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In February 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 Held the ACCESS 2.0 Field Test Administrator/Proctor Training Webinar on February 11, 2014
- 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
 - Continued development and held discussions about format for operational forms
- o Interim assessments
 - Held WIDA/CAL meeting to discuss changes 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 professional development modules via ongoing phone discussion

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 Created and posted to the website numerous communications materials for educators
- o Created outreach materials for external organizations regarding cross-consortium activity

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

- o Discussed validation plans and technical considerations for new material such as the interim assessments and Dynamic Language Learning Progressions

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

- o Held cross-departmental meetings at WIDA to address 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