

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | MARCH 2013

The ASSETS Consortium continues to progress in the development of the online English language proficiency assessment system. With many project high points, like the Annual Board Meeting and field testing, on the horizon, March has proven to be a busy month for ASSETS developments. On March 8th, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) demonstrated their platform for the Technology Subcommittee, providing members an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback regarding preparation for field testing. The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) and WIDA also convened a webinar for the Accommodations Subcommittee to examine item prototypes through an accessibility and accommodations lens. Additionally, the Steering Committee met to provide feedback on the types and content of communications that will be provided to ASSETS SEAs over the coming months regarding pilot testing, field testing, the secure website, and subcommittee progress.

Throughout the month, the ASSETS subcommittees continued foundational work on topics such as:

- Participating in national discussions regarding the definition of English Learner and the role of the ELL definition ASSETS subcommittee in the this national discussion
- Finalizing documents regarding technology purchasing requirements and key strategies for the implementation of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- Proposing recommendations for computer-based testing features that should be available for all students and those that should be accommodations on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- Discussing the content of score reports and exploring avenues to meet the reporting needs of consortium states.

In addition, the ASSETS project staff completed desktop monitoring from the Department of Education, providing fiscal and programmatic information to date.

### GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

Key activities in test development include continuing phase I of cognitive laboratories (or 'cog labs') as a part of pilot testing. WIDA and CAL have conducted cognitive laboratories in two districts located in Virginia. If you are interested in having your state participate in upcoming cognitive labs, please contact Pakou Vang from WIDA at [pakouvang@wisc.edu](mailto:pakouvang@wisc.edu).

As part of the transition to online testing, ASSETS project partners continue to focus interoperability efforts on understanding and implementing various pertinent topics discussed at the February APIP extensive training for item development that was held at CAL. Furthermore, WIDA and project partners continue to incorporate the advice of the Accommodations Subcommittee on features that should be built into the test items or system, if possible.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Over the next month, WDPI and WIDA will be setting upcoming priorities for subcommittee work in preparation for the June Board Meeting. In an effort to foster cross-consortia collaboration, the ASSETS team is coordinating a technology call with representatives from the all of the large-scale assessment consortia. WIDA and WDPI will continue development of a field testing plan to help prepare the Consortium states for pilot and field testing. More details about this plan will be discussed during the next ASSETS Consortium quarterly call scheduled for April 25 at 2:00 p.m. CT.

## KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

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

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PARTNER
<p><b>Timothy Boals, Ph.D.</b> Principal Investigator/Executive Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p><b>Elizabeth Cranley, Ph.D.</b> Co-Principal Investigator/Associate Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p><b>Carsten Wilmes, Ph.D.</b> Project Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p><b>Meredith Alt</b> 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)  
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Jennifer Malonson (MA)  
Gay Pickner (SD)  
Shereen Tabrizi (MI)  
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### EL DEFINITION

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Dan Auman (NC)  
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Seon Eun (IL)  
Maria Silva (MI)  
Crystal Fields (SC)  
Raquel Sinai (NJ)  
Lodee Arnold (ND)  
Michelle Williams (MI)  
Jonathan Gibson (NV)

### 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 March 2013, 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

- Reached out to other content assessment consortia workgroups to increase collaboration on topics affecting all groups (i.e. EL definition, technology and accommodations)
- Continued discussions with content experts at WIDA to encourage national collaboration on forming a common English Learner definition

### 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 item prototypes and student responses to the prototypes
  - Began additional technical discussions between project partners working on interoperability and system needs for field test
- 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
  - Convened webinar with the National Development Advisory Council (NDAC), who provided recommendations related to interim development
- Foundations for formative assessment resources
  - Completed analysis report of data collection as part of development work for 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

- Sharing most updated version of the Test and Item Design Plan at the June Board Meeting

### 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 field testing
- Continue to develop recruitment plan to optimize participation of ASSETS states
- Utilize the expertise of subcommittee members to create documents that can best prepare states for implementation of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- Foster cross-consortia communication on relevant issues such as technology and EL definition.