

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | MARCH 2014

The ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field test kicked off in March! Nearly 2,000 students across the WIDA Consortium have already field tested Reading, Writing, and Speaking items on computers and we will continue testing through June 30<sup>th</sup>. WIDA thanks educators across the consortium for their support and feedback, which will help us prepare for the 2015 field test and implementation of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 in 2015-16.

March was a busy month for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 subcommittee members as they prepared recommendations that will be shared with the full Consortium in the coming months.

### Subcommittee Updates:

- The Accommodations, Accessibility, and Equity Subcommittee continued work on policy questions and recommendations for review by the Executive Committee/Steering Committee in April.
- EL Definition Subcommittee continued work on finding common ground in defining English language proficiency and identification and classification of students as English learners, including use of the home language survey and associated processes.
- Technology Subcommittee members attended a multi-state, multi-consortium technology requirements discussion in Austin, TX, hosted by the State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA). SETDA is planning to debut a website featuring technology information for all six multi-state assessment consortia this spring.

### Committee Membership Updates

- Jonathan Gibson (NV) joined the Steering Committee and will also chair the EL Definition Subcommittee.
- Robert Fugate (VA) will chair the Reporting Subcommittee.

## GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

Project partners worked closely with WIDA to assist districts preparing for and administering the computerized field test. In addition to providing technical support, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) created new functionality to enable educators to upload student tier information directly into eDIRECT when setting up test sessions.

### Important field test resources:

- Educators may view the video tutorials of sample test items in eDIRECT without a login by visiting the WIDA [eDIRECT site](#) and selecting Test Setup/ General Information.
- Preparation resources, including detailed checklists for Technology Coordinators, Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators, are available on the [Field Test Preparation Resources](#) page of the ASSETS website
- The [Get Involved](#) page of the ASSETS website offers information about incentives being offered for participation in the 2014 field test, including free headsets and a copy of the ACCESS for ELLs Growth Report (for districts that have two years of ACCESS for ELLs test data)

Throughout March, project partners also continued research and analyses for the new materials being developed, including Listening test items, Interim assessment prototypes, and the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions.

## REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- April 9-10: Joint WIDA Executive Committee/ASSETS Steering Committee meeting in Chicago, IL
- April 16: WIDA/ASSETS All States SEA Call at 1:00 CDT
- June 30: ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field testing ends

## KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

### WIDA Consortium

**Timothy Boals, Ph.D.**, Principal Investigator/Executive Director  
**Elizabeth Cranley, Ph.D.**, Co-Principal Investigator/Associate Director  
**Carsten Wilmes, Ph.D.**, Project Director  
**Meredith Alt**, Project Manager for Test Development

### Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (Fiscal Agent and Lead State)

**Troy Couillard**, Project Director  
**Phil Olsen**, Assistant Project Director

## MEMBER STATES

Alabama	Illinois	Mississippi	North Carolina	Tennessee
Alaska	Kentucky	Missouri	North Dakota	US Virgin Islands
Colorado	Maine	Montana	Oklahoma	Utah
Com N Mariana Islands	Maryland	Nevada	Pennsylvania	Vermont
Delaware	Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Virginia
District of Columbia	Michigan	New Jersey	South Carolina	Wisconsin
Idaho	Minnesota	New Mexico	South Dakota	Wyoming

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Robert Fugate (VA)	Melissa McGavock (OK)	Jennifer Paul (MI)
Jonathan Gibson (NV)	Nancy Mullins (ME)	Barry Pedersen (IL)
James McCobb (VT)	Phil Olsen (WI)	Ilhye Yoon (MD)

## SUBCOMMITTEES

*Committee chairs are **bold***

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Susan Beard (AL)  
 Michelle Blakey-Tuggle (DC)  
 Grace Gray (AK)  
 Robin Holbrook (WY)  
 Linda Howley (MI)  
 Boon Lee (IL)  
 Audrey Lesondak (WI)  
 Drew Linkon (MO)  
 Terry Richard (DE)  
 Dely Roberts (AL)  
**Dan Wiener (MA)**

### EL DEFINITION

Dan Auman (NC)  
 Seon Eun (IL)  
 Crystal Fields (SC)  
**Jonathan Gibson (NV)**  
 Grace Gray (AK)  
 James McCobb (VT)  
 Christina Nava (ID)  
 Leigh Schleicher (MN)  
 Maria Silva (MI)  
 Raquel Sinai (NJ)  
 Nadja Trez (NC)  
 Michelle Williams (MI)

### INTERIM ASSESSMENT

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

### TECHNOLOGY

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

### REPORTING

**Robert Fugate (VA)**  
 Jason Kolb (MI)  
 Ursula Lentz (MN)  
 Ivanna Thrower (NC)  
 Ji Zeng (MI)

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In March 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 Changes to Steering Committee and subcommittees as noted above.
- o Wisconsin DPI expects to soon hire a new ASSETS coordinator, replacing Jihan Bekiri, who accepted another position within the department.
- o Quarterly update with US Department of Education grant contact

### 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
  - Began to field test Listening, Reading, and Writing items
  - Project partners (CAL, WestEd, and DRC) discussed plans to finalize and transfer to DRC the 2015 field test items
  - Continued listening item development
- o On-demand screener
  - Field tested screener items, alongside summative items
  - Continued discussions about design and development of new computerized screener
- o Interim assessments
  - Discussed changes to the prototypes to increase the utility of the Interim assessments for teachers
  - Continued progress on Framework Document that will be shared at the June Board Meeting
- o Formative assessment resources – Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
  - Continued to analyze data and code student explanations
  - Created outlines of professional development modules with WIDA support

### 3.0 Create foundations for technology-based training program for scorers

- o Held multi-partner discussions about plans for the technology-based training program for scorers. The new program will be available in 2015.

### 4.0 Create professional development and outreach materials

- o Posted multiple communications resources to the ASSETS website to help educators stay informed of field test plans and strategies to prepare for the operational test

### 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 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](http://assetsproject.org)