

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | APRIL 2014

April has been another busy month of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field testing, with a total of approximately 6,000 students completing the 2014 field test by the end of the month. WIDA is grateful to all educators and district staff who have participated as their hard work and commitment to supporting our initiatives has gotten us this far.

Out of the 20,000 students needed for the field test, we are still a long way from obtaining the necessary number of students to produce a psychometrically sound assessment. However, there is still time to participate, since the 2014 field test will continue through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Paula White ([pawhite1@wisc.edu](mailto:pawhite1@wisc.edu), 608-263-4353) if your district would be able to lend a hand. We look forward to working with you to ensure a successful field test.

The **WIDA Executive Committee/ASSETS Steering Committee** held a meeting in Chicago, April 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Key topics of the meeting included:

- Consortium governance: recommendations for how to best utilize the WIDA Executive Committee and ASSETS Steering Committee and collaborating with SEAs to meet the needs of a growing consortium
- Updates on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test development, field testing, and recruitment efforts
- Proposals for accessibility and accommodations guidelines
- Rollout of communications and transition planning

All **ASSETS subcommittees** are preparing topics for discussion and decisions at the June Board Meeting.

### **Cross-Consortia Collaboration** – New Communications Tools for Districts!

- All six consortia provided input for a new website and tool created by the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA). The newly released Guide to Technology Requirements Tool (<http://gtr.setda.org/>) allows educators to filter by state and consortia to determine the minimum and recommended technical requirements for any of the six multi-state consortia assessments.
- The K-12 Testing Center at ETS released the 2014 version of "[Coming Together to Increase Achievement](#)", a free publication on their website that outlines important information about the use and timelines for all six multi-state testing consortia.

## GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the multi-partner support of the 2014 field test, in April, the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) continued new Listening item development and held discussions with WIDA on plans for the interim assessments. UCLA researchers analyzed data related to the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions and presented on their progress at several national conferences. UCLA researchers and WIDA's Teaching and Learning team held ongoing discussions about professional development modules for the new progressions.

## REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- June 2-6: WIDA/ASSETS Annual Board Meeting in Middleton, WI
- June 3: WIDA State Superintendents/State Leaders Meeting in Middleton, WI
- 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  
**Jesse Roberts**, Project Coordinator

## 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)  
 Jonathan Gibson (NV)  
 James McCobb (VT)

Melissa McGavock (OK)  
 Nancy Mullins (ME)  
 Phil Olsen (WI)

Jennifer Paul (MI)  
 Barry Pedersen (IL)  
 Ilhye Yoon (MD)

## SUBCOMMITTEES

*Committee chairs are in **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)

### REPORTING

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

### TECHNOLOGY

Cherly 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)

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In April 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

- Jesse Roberts joined the Wisconsin DPI as the new ASSETS coordinator. He will be focused on timely communication with SEAs and grant monitoring. Contact him at [jesse.roberts@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:jesse.roberts@dpi.wi.gov) or by phone at 608.266.8499 with any questions, requests, or suggestions.

### 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 to field test 2014 Speaking, Reading, and Writing items and to plan for 2015 test
  - Held discussions regarding upcoming production and item transfer plans for the 2015 field test
  - Continued listening item development
- On-demand screener
  - Field tested computerized screener items, alongside summative items
- Interim assessments
  - Held meetings to discuss innovative design possibilities and how to increase the utility of the Interim assessments for teachers
  - Continued progress on Framework Document that CAL will share at the June Board Meeting
- Formative assessment resources – Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
  - Continued data analysis and presented at national conferences
  - UCLA and WIDA collaborated on professional development modules that are being developed

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

- 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

- 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

- Discussed validation plans and technical considerations for the new resources (e.g. interim assessments)

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

- Obtained input from the WIDA Executive Committee/ASSETS Steering Committee about governance
- Held cross-departmental meetings to address overall preparations for the transition in 2015

### Upcoming Communications and Outreach Goals

- IMS Learning Impact Leadership Institute May 5-8, New Orleans, LA
  - WIDA will present as part of a cross-consortia technology panel
- WIDA/ASSETS Annual Board Meeting June 2-6, Middleton, WI.
- WIDA State Superintendents/State Leaders Meeting June 3, Middleton, WI