

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | MAY 2013

The ASSETS Team has been hard at work preparing for the Annual June Board Meeting and spring 2014 field testing as part of the development of the online English language proficiency assessment system.

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

- Collecting and synthesizing state policies regarding EL performance level descriptors and a common home language survey,
- Reviewing documents on technology purchasing recommendations and key strategies for implementing online testing to present at the annual Board Meeting,
- Proposing recommendations for accessibility features that should be available for all students in an online environment and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities during the Field Test,
- Preparing score report recommendations to present to the ASSETS Board and exploring avenues to meet the reporting needs of consortium states.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI) hosted a second cross-consortia technology call with the technology chairs of all of the testing consortia. The group examined commonalities in communications necessary to prepare districts, as well as device support and technology capacity tools. The group is also exploring possibilities to create standardized documents to ensure that information regarding technology implementation is accessible and consistent.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

Key activities in test development continued to include conducting cognitive laboratories, refining the items that will be used in the field test, and addressing interoperability needs. WIDA participated in the IMS Global Learning Consortium's recent meeting in San Diego, CA and was able to hear about and contribute to discussions on educational technology. Project partners also prepared to preview the item prototypes at the June Board Meeting and held ongoing development discussions about the interim assessments.

All project partners are holding regular meetings to prepare for the March 2014 start of the field test, and in May, they held a meeting to discuss the system functionality features that will be included in the field test. In addition, all partners gave input on a draft field test planning document that addresses psychometric considerations, technology readiness planning, and logistics. The full Board will also give input and the document will be revised following the June Board Meeting.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Over the summer, WIDA and CAL will be holding small scale tryouts as part of Phase II of pilot testing. States that would like to recommend district participants should contact WIDA.

Following the Board Meeting, the ASSETS team looks forward to sharing technology readiness materials with districts to assist in planning for the operational test.

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

LEAD STATE: WISCONSIN
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PROJECT MANAGEMENT PARTNER
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In May 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

- Connected with the other consortia workgroups to increase collaboration on topics affecting all groups (i.e. EL definition, technology, and accommodations)
- Collected state policy information to assist national researchers in creating 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 to conduct cognitive laboratories as part of pilot testing
 - Held weekly technical calls with multiple partners in preparation for the field test and to address interoperability
- On-demand screener
 - Continued foundational work on screener and summative assessment items
- Interim assessments
 - Held weekly research calls on design plans, implications, and development of prototypes
 - Continued work on a foundational document for the interim assessments
- Formative assessment resources
 - Continued data analysis to inform development of the 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

- Continued implementation of outreach activities in ASSETS Communication Plan
- Shared outreach materials on technology readiness and the field test plan with subcommittees and the full consortium

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

- Revised the Test and Item Design Plan and continued progress on the foundational document on interim assessments for June Board Meeting discussion

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

- Held discussions related to developing a comprehensive Transition Plan and outlined questions to address in transitioning to computerized assessment

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals

- Incorporate feedback from the ASSETS Board on documents that will prepare states for field testing and implementation of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- Continue to foster cross-consortia communication on issues such as technology and EL definition