ASSETS

Assessment Services Supporting ELs through Technology Systems Consortium

Monthly Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | JUNE 2013

June proved to be an exciting month for the ASSETS Project. WIDA/ASSETS successfully held their first joint Annual Board Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin to discuss the project highlights from the past year, subcommittee progress, and goals for the year ahead in the development of the online English language proficiency assessment system.

At the WIDA/ASSETS Board Meeting, ASSETS subcommittees held meetings to review and discuss:
- EL Definition subcommittee involvement in national discussions regarding a common EL definition,
- Technology subcommittee recommendations regarding configurable options for the DRC eDIRECT platform during the Field Test and documents outlining technology requirements,
- Accommodations, Accessibility and Equity Subcommittee proposal for accessibility features and accommodations available for students with disabilities during the Field Test,
- Interim Assessment development and a conceptual example of the testlet design

Furthermore, at the CCSSO National Conference on Student Assessment (NCSA) in National Harbor, MD, WIDA and The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI) hosted a face-to-face meeting with the cross-consortia technology group. A representative from each of the six testing consortia was present to discuss technology developments and communications that will best prepare districts for the implementation of online assessments. The group is currently working on a comprehensive document to outline the technology requirements across the multiple consortia to ensure that information regarding technology is accessible and consistent.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) has completed cognitive laboratories for Phase I of Pilot Testing. Moving forward, CAL is holding small scale item tryouts as part of Phase II of Pilot Testing. Key test development activities included refining the test items, developing and making technical adjustments to the field test platform, and addressing interoperability needs. WIDA and CAL also held discussions about the interim assessments and presented an update on progress at the June Board meeting. All project partners continue to hold regular meetings to prepare for the March 2014 start of the field test.

In addition to general test development, WIDA and project partners have had the opportunity to participate in national meetings and discussions on our plans for a computerized ELP assessment. In June, WIDA, WDPI, and CAL had multiple presentations at CCSSO NCSA and participated in a webinar through the Alliance for Excellent Education. The Board Meeting provided an opportunity for states to view and respond to the item prototypes, discuss field test plans, and learn more about progress on the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions. States also gave input on the Field Test Planning Document and WIDA and CAL will be providing guidance on district selection for the field test.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES (RECRUITMENT)

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.

Save the Date – ASSETS SEA Quarterly Call on August 1, 2013 at 2:00pm CT. If you have any questions regarding the call, please contact Jihan Bekiri (jihan.bekiri@dpi.wi.gov).

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

LEAD STATE: WISCONSIN
Troy Couillard Project Director Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
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PROJECT MANAGEMENT PARTNER
Timothy Boals, Ph.D. Principal Investigator/Executive Director WIDA Consortium
Elizabeth Cranley, Ph.D. Co-Principal Investigator/Associate Director WIDA Consortium
Carsten Wilmes, Ph.D. Project Director WIDA Consortium
Meredith Alt Project Manager for Test Development WIDA Consortium

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACCOMMODATIONS
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Drew Linkon (MO)
Boon Lee (IL)
Dely Roberts (AL)
Linda Howley (MI)
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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 June 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)

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 pilot test items through small scale tryouts
  - Held technical calls to prepare platform for the field test and to begin rendering test items
- On-demand screener
  - Continued foundational work on screener and summative assessment items
- Interim assessments
  - Continued development of the Interim Assessment prototypes
- Formative assessment resourcess
  - Finished data collection for the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
  - Analyzed data and began to disseminate some of the early findings (available on DLLP website)

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
- Discussed tutorials, trainings, and professional development that will be necessary to prepare for both the field test and ACCESS 2.0
- 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
- Presented foundational documents that included a revised Test and Item Design Plan, field test sampling plan, and materials related to interim assessments at the Board Meeting

6.0   Create a transition plan to scale up and sustain the new assessment system
- Held a luncheon for states and other consortia addressing the transition plan at CCSSO NCSA and addressed planning for ACCESS 2.0 at the Board Meeting and national meetings

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals
- Incorporate feedback from the ASSETS Board Meeting regarding subcommittee activities and 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