

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | JUNE 2014

The ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 2014 Field Test finished at the end of June. Over the course of this Field Test, nearly 10,000 ELLs completed WIDA's first large scale assessment on computers!

WIDA thanks all of the educators and students who contributed to this year's field test. The results will be analyzed in the coming months in order to establish the psychometric linking necessary to create a valid computerized assessment. The feedback WIDA received from educators is critical to ensuring a successful field test next year and for full consortium rollout of the operational assessment in 2015-16.

The **WIDA/ASSETS Board Meeting** was held in Middleton, WI the second week of June. Key topics of the meeting included:

- 2014-16 rollout plans, including upcoming timelines, for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and the ACCESS 2.0 screener
- Accommodations guidelines for the new assessments
- Progress on a common definition of what it means to be an English Language Learner
- Interim assessment development, including review of a sample prototype

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

As the 2015 Field Test drew to a close, WIDA and project partners began closeout steps that will include transferring and analyzing data files and reviewing end-of-test student surveys and post-field test surveys completed by district staff and SEAs. WIDA, the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), and WestEd continued development work and transfers for the 2015 Field Test and conducted forms reviews throughout June.

With only a little over a year left before ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is implemented across the consortium, WIDA is working closely with project partners and all WIDA departments on transition planning, communications plans, and educator outreach materials. Project partners are also continuing development of new resources, including Listening items, interim assessment prototypes, and the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- July – August: Analyzing field test results and preparing communications for the upcoming transition year
- **WIDA Conference** (October 23 – 25, 2014) – Atlanta, GA
 - The conference, which is designed especially for K-12 educators, will include a demonstration and Q/A session on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test items. More information is available at: <http://www.widaconference.us/>
- **2015 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test** (December 15, 2014 - April 10, 2015).
 - Plans are already underway for the 2015 Field Test of Reading and Listening Items! Participation will offer a fantastic opportunity to gain experience with the new items and give input that will help the full consortium with rollout plans for the operational test in 2015-16.
 - Please contact WIDA's new field test recruiter, Alex Bauer (asbauer@wisc.edu, 608-265-0601), if you know of schools or districts that can participate.

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)

REPORTING

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

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)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In June 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

- ASSETS Consortium Management Plan Updates
 - A first draft was submitted to SEAs for comments
 - Feedback was addressed, and a second draft was sent to the Steering Committee for July approval
 - A final draft will be sent to the full board mid-July
- Annual WIDA/ASSETS Board Meeting was held in Middleton, WI
 - WIDA Executive Committee/ASSETS Steering Committee meeting held to address governance plans
 - Subcommittee meetings were held to discuss work under way and next steps for each of the groups

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
 - Finished the 2014 Field Test of Speaking, Reading, and Writing items and continued plans for 2015
 - Held ongoing calls regarding production and item transfers for the 2015 field test
- On-demand screener
 - Finished the 2014 Field Test, which included screener items
- Interim assessments
 - Held meetings discuss innovative design plans and a prototype for the new assessments
- Formative assessment resources – Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
 - Continued data analysis on the language learning progressions
 - Held calls to discuss PD modules and plans for WIDA staff trainings on the progressions

3.0 Create foundations for technology-based training program for scorers

- Discussed plans and timelines for the technology-based training program for scorers (available in 2015)

4.0 Create professional development and outreach materials

- Added updates and new preparation resources to the website for the field test and operational test
- WIDA, SEAs, and project partners participated in a Cross-Consortium Technology presentation and an ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 presentation at the CCSSO National Conference on Student Assessment in New Orleans, LA

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

- Held discussions with Board Members about key topics related to consortium governance, the WIDA membership package, and consortium communications
- Held WIDA cross-departmental meetings to address overall preparations for the transition in 2015-16

Upcoming Communications and Outreach Goals

- Please continue to share with districts and technology staff the **Guide to Technology Requirements** tool that allows users to view information, by state, about each consortium's technology requirements: <http://qtr.setda.org/>
- *Overview of Online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0* Webinar Recording – will be finalized and posted to the [ASSETS Project website](#) (Implementation/Operational Test section) in July
- New information about the 2015 Field Test is available on the website ([Field Test](#) section).