

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | JULY 2013

The ASSETS Consortium continues progress in the development of the online English proficiency assessment system. We are delighted to announce that, with the addition of CO and KY, the ASSETS Consortium membership has increased to 33 member-states.

Steering Committee Update: In June, Gay Pickner (SD) stepped down from the Steering Committee. Her participation will be greatly missed. However, we are welcoming two new Steering Committee members this month – Melissa McGavock (OK) and Jennifer Paul (MI). We appreciate their commitment to the ASSETS Consortium and look forward to their active participation.

Subcommittee Update: The overall goals for the subcommittees in the coming months are:

- EL Definition subcommittee will provide input for national meeting on common EL definition
- Technology subcommittee will provide recommendations on eDIRECT configurable options during August 12th webinar,
- Accommodations, Accessibility and Equity Subcommittee will meet in fall, 2013 to propose accessibility features and accommodations available for students with disabilities for the operational test

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

ASSETS test development partners continue to hold regular meetings and technical calls to prepare for the March 2014 start of the field test. WIDA, CAL, and DRC held a meeting in Washington D.C. to talk about specific features and functionality. Additional test development activities in July included refining the test items, creating and making technical adjustments to the field test platform, and addressing interoperability needs for the operational test.

Also in July, WIDA and UCLA researchers met in Madison, WI to discuss progress on the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions research. The meeting included group discussion on initial findings and a demo of the database that is being developed to store and parse language samples. WIDA anticipates this tool will be an important resource to help educators understand the progression of language.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

In an effort to prepare ASSETS SEAs for the Field Test, WIDA/WDPI will be providing states with an updated version of the comprehensive Field Test Planning Document, which includes information on psychometric considerations, preparation for districts (webinars and planned release of materials to the field), logistical concerns, and technology requirements. WIDA will be providing states a list of the selected districts for the field test.

WIDA and WDPI have nominated participants to represent ASSETS during the CCSSO national English Learner Definition meeting, to take place in Washington D.C. in September. The meeting will focus on key aspects of a common EL Definition, including Performance Level Descriptors and the Home Language Survey.

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

LEAD STATE: WISCONSIN
<p>Troy Couillard Project Director Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction</p>
<p>Phil Olsen Assistant Project Director Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction</p>
<p>Jihan Bekiri Project Coordinator for Member States Office of Student Assessment Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction</p>

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PARTNER
<p>Timothy Boals, Ph.D. Principal Investigator/Executive Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p>Elizabeth Cranley, Ph.D. Co-Principal Investigator/Associate Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p>Carsten Wilmes, Ph.D. Project Director WIDA Consortium</p>
<p>Meredith Alt Project Manager for Test Development WIDA Consortium</p>

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACCOMMODATIONS

Dan Wiener (Chair, MA)
Susan Beard (AL)
Drew Linkon (MO)
Boon Lee (IL)
Dely Roberts (AL)
Linda Howley (MI)
Robin Holbrook (WY)
Michelle Blakey-Tuggle (DC)
Carrie Perkis (NC)
Audrey Lesondak (WI)
Terry Richard (DE)

REPORTING

Kerri Whipple (Chair, ND)
Anh Tran (MN)
Helga Fasciano (NC)
Shannon Malone (SD)
Jason Kolb (MI)
Robert Fugate (VA)
Ji Zeng (MI)

INTERIM ASSESSMENT

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

EL DEFINITION

David Holbrook (Chair, WY)
James McCobb (VT)
Dan Auman (NC)
Leigh Schleicher (MN)
Ruslana Westerlund (MN)
Seon Eun (IL)
Maria Silva (MI)
Crystal Fields (SC)
Raquel Sinai (NJ)
Lodee Arnold (ND)
Michelle Williams (MI)
Jonathan Gibson (NV)

TECHNOLOGY

Jennifer Paul (Chair, MI)
Brian Swiger (NC)
John Jesse (UT)
Barry Pedersen (IL)
Jan Lanier (TN)
Cheryl Alcaya (MN)
Matthew Ayotte (MI)
Paulette Watson (MA)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In July 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

- Added two new states to the ASSETS Consortium (CO and KY)
- 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 the small scale tryouts for the pilot test
 - 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 Interim Assessment development, with input from the Board Meeting
- Formative assessment resources
 - 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

- Revised the field test sampling plan based on input provided at the Board Meeting

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

- Compiled questions to address consortium needs during transition to computerized ACCESS 2.0

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals

- Providing ASSETS SEAs with Field Test Planning Documents:
 - Updated Field Test Planning Document (with updated psychometric considerations, sampling plan, and logistics)
 - Field Test Overview (1-2 pages for LEAs)
 - Technology Requirements for Field Test (Note: Also sent and presented at Board Meeting)
 - Timeline of Communications
 - Field Test Guidelines for Computer-Based Accessibility Features for All Students and Accommodations for English Language Learners with Disabilities