

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | JULY 2014

July was a busy and productive month as WIDA and partners gear up for the transition year for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. Project partners continued to collaborate on plans for the 2015 Field Test and both development and outreach for the operational test.

- **New Resource Available for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0!**
 - [Overview of Online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar Recording](#) is now available on the ASSETS Project website (Implementation/Operational Test). The webinar addresses:
 - Timeline for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 online assessment
 - Key features of the online assessment for each of the four domains
 - Additional resources to assist in the transition to the online assessment

As we continue with cross-consortium work to create a common definition of English Language Learner, a subgroup of the EL Definition subcommittee, focusing on the Home Language Survey (HLS), has created a framework to pilot a new HLS process. If you know of a district that would be interested in participating in the pilot, please contact Audrey Lesondak (Audrey.Lesondak@dpi.wi.gov) or Jesse Roberts (Jesse.Roberts@dpi.wi.gov) at Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the month, WIDA and project partners worked on the transfer and review of data files from the 2014 Field Test as well as item development and plans for the 2015 Field Test. WIDA and project partners continued to analyze feedback from the post-field test surveys and will be incorporating changes to the webinar trainings and test administration resources based on this input.

As we head into the upcoming transition year, departments across WIDA are collaborating to update test administration training and educator outreach materials. WIDA's Assessment Department and Teaching and Learning Department are holding discussions about plans for professional development resources to accompany a new Accommodations matrix for ACCESS 2.0 as well as the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions UCLA researchers are developing.

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! All four domains will be tested. 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
Commonwealth of Northern 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

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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

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EL DEFINITION

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In July 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
 - The final version of the updated document was sent to the full board mid-July
 - By the end of July, nearly 60% of Members had returned an affirmative vote on adopting it as a governance document. If your SEA has not yet done so, please review and cast your vote!

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
 - Began analysis of 2014 Field Test results (for 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
 - Began analysis of 2014 Field test results and held WIDA/CAL discussions about timelines and development considerations for the on-demand screener
- Interim assessments
 - Held team meetings to discuss design plans and the prototypes being developed 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

- Continued to add new information to the WIDA and ASSETS Project websites for the 2015 ACCESS 2.0 Field Test and operational test
 - Released the *Overview of Online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0* Webinar Recording, which is posted to the [ASSETS Project website](#) (Implementation/Operational Test section)
- Began initial outreach with states regarding recruitment for the 2015 Field 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

- 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/>