

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | SEPTEMBER 2013

The ASSETS Team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field test as part of the development of the online English language proficiency assessment system.

Steering Committee Update

The Steering Committee held a meeting on September 10, 2013 to finalize the configurable options for the administrative portal that will be used to set up test tickets and manage student progress on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field test. During their meeting, they also began initial discussions regarding the technology requirements and the types of devices that will be supported in administering the operational ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment.

Subcommittee Update

WIDA and ASSETS representatives participated in the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) meeting in Washington D.C. as part of the national initiative to develop a common definition of what it means to be an English Language Learner.

As we move into year three of the grant period, WDPI and WIDA are developing timelines for upcoming subcommittee activity and taking into account the test development timeline for 2014.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

ASSETS test development partners continue to work closely together to prepare for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field test. Key activities in September included revising the test items for the March 2014 field test, developing and making technical adjustments to the field test platform, and continuing to address future interoperability needs. In an effort to plan and prepare for the year ahead in ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, WIDA staff held their annual ACCESS Launch Meeting September 10th – 12th in Madison with all project partners. The meeting focused on test development activities across partners, timelines, and the coordination that will be necessary for a successful field test.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

As noted in recent field test communications, the ASSETS team has finalized and posted to the ASSETS website the webinar schedule for the 2014 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test.

- The Initial Online Orientation is scheduled for **October 7, 2013 at 3:00pm Central Time** – *For the 2014 Speaking, Reading, and Writing Field Test.*
 - **Audience:** This webinar is intended for SEAs and identified and/or committed district personnel.
 - **Agenda:** The webinar will provide an overview of the field test – including timelines and roles, as well as a brief demo of DRC's testing engine (INSIGHT) and the administrative portal (eDIRECT).
- Additional webinars will take place through February 2014.

The ASSETS SEA quarterly call will take place **November 6, 2013 at 2:00pm Central Time.**

We would also like to remind states that Paula White is the new field test contact at WIDA. Please contact her with any questions: Paula White pawwhite1@wisc.edu, 608-263-4353.

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)
Audrey Lesondak (WI)
Terry Richard (DE)

REPORTING

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Jason Kolb (MI)
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INTERIM ASSESSMENT

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EL DEFINITION

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James McCobb (VT)
Dan Auman (NC)
Leigh Schleicher (MN)
Seon Eun (IL)
Maria Silva (MI)
Crystal Fields (SC)
Raquel Sinai (NJ)
Michelle Williams (MI)
Jonathan Gibson (NV)
Grace Gray (AK)

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)
Andrea Somoza-Norton (NH)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In September 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)
- Sent ASSETS members David Holbrook (Chair of EL Definition Subcommittee) and Audrey Lesondak (WDPI EL Consultant) to represent the consortium at the CCSO EL Definition Meeting in Washington DC

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
 - Met in person at the ACCESS Launch Meeting in Madison to discuss progress toward the computerized summative assessment
 - Held frequent technical calls to prepare test items and platform for the March 2014 field test
- On-demand screener
 - Continued foundational work on screener and summative assessment items
- Interim assessments
 - Continued ongoing revision of the Interim Assessment prototypes and discussed upcoming plans to share the items and get feedback at the October WIDA Conference
- Foundations for formative assessment resources
 - Analyzed data for the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
 - Developed coding protocols and initial summary descriptions of the different linguistic and cognitive features that emerged in recent data collection

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 the field test and ACCESS 2.0
- Shared outreach materials on field test plans with the full consortium (also available on website) and sent targeted emails to states participating in the 2014 Field Test

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

- Addressed technical quality and validity of items through weekly partners calls and discussions on summative and interim assessment

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

- Held internal and partner discussions about plans to transition to computerized testing and to develop the operational test RFP

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals

- Planning for upcoming ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test Webinars and creating short materials for SEAs to share with district personnel
- Preparing for October 2013 WIDA Conference and fall/winter national conference presentations