

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | OCTOBER 2013

The ASSETS Team is pleased to welcome the Northern Mariana Islands to the consortium, bringing our total number of states to 35! Key activities this month have been planning for the 2014 Field Test as well as developing communications strategies that will best support the transition to the next generation assessments.

Steering Committee Update

The ASSETS Steering Committee and WIDA Executive Committee will meet in St. Louis, MO November 14th–15th to discuss policy issues and transition plans as we prepare for the 2015-16 operational test. Key topics to be addressed include test development progress, accommodations plans, and preparing for the ACCESS 2.0 rollout.

Subcommittee Update

The Accommodations, Accessibility, and Equity Subcommittee will hold a meeting November 7th and 8th in Madison, WI. Agenda topics include:

- Recommendations related to a consortium-wide accommodations policy
- A professional development strategy to assist educators in identifying and using available accommodations for the online assessment
- Considerations for blind and deaf students in future ELP assessment development

WIDA and WDPI will discuss topical issues for the other subcommittees, including key outcomes of the September Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) meeting on a common EL definition, at the upcoming Executive Committee/Steering Committee Meeting.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

ASSETS test development partners are holding frequent calls and meetings in preparation for the 2014 field test, while also planning for the 2015-16 operational test. On October 7th, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), the field test platform provider, joined WIDA and WDPI in the first webinar for the ACCESS 2.0 Field Test. On October 24th, WIDA, CAL, WestEd, MetriTech, and DRC held a productive meeting in Washington D.C. to finalize plans for the field test platform and items to be produced in the coming months.

Research and development continued to be a key activity as project partners analyzed data for the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions and discussed revisions to the interim assessment prototypes.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Recruitment for the ACCESS 2.0 field test: ongoing as we need additional 2014 Field Test participants
 - Please contact **Paula White** at WIDA, pawwhite1@wisc.edu, with suggested districts or any questions
- Accommodations, Accessibility, and Equity Subcommittee (AAE) Meeting November 7–8, 2013 in Madison, WI
- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) November 12–13, 2013 in St. Louis, MO
- WIDA Executive Committee/ASSETS Steering Committee Meeting November 14–15, 2013 in St. Louis, MO

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)
Grace Gray (AK)

REPORTING

Anh Tran (MN)
Ivanna Mann Thrower (NC)
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)
Seon Eun (IL)
Maria Silva (MI)
Crystal Fields (SC)
Raquel Sinai (NJ)
Michelle Williams (MI)
Jonathan Gibson (NV)
Grace Gray (AK)
Nadja Trez (NC)

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 October 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. English Learner definition, technology, and accommodations)
- Presented on progress toward ACCESS 2.0 and future plans at the first WIDA National Conference in Milwaukee, WI; the ELL SCASS meeting in New Orleans, LA; and the National State Title III Directors Meeting in Washington D.C.

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
 - Held cognitive laboratories for speaking items in Idaho and South Dakota for all grade clusters
 - Continued listening item development
- On-demand screener
 - Continued foundational work on screener and summative assessment items
- Interim assessments
 - Held project meeting to discuss the Interim Assessment design and prototypes
- Formative assessment resources
 - Created outlines of professional development modules
 - Continued to analyze data and code student explanations

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

- Posted numerous materials to the ASSETS website to help educators stay informed of field test plans and strategies to prepare for the operational test
- Collected input on educators' communication needs at the WIDA National Conference and in the first webinar for the 2014 Field Test

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

- Discussed the sampling plan for the field test and psychometric considerations related to the operational test and interim assessments

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

- Held project meetings to address cross-departmental collaboration and overall preparations needed as the consortium transitions to computerized testing

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals

- Releasing Technology Requirements document for operational ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- Prepare outreach materials for states to disseminate about both the 2015 Field Test and operational test
 - Please note that new information, including FAQs and a field test webinar schedule, is now posted to the ASSETS website