EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | DECEMBER 2013

As 2013 came to an end, the ASSETS Team used the month of December to review the year's progress and prepare for test development activities in the coming year. Key activities this month have been finalizing and releasing the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 operational technology requirements, planning for the 2014 Field Test, disseminating information about accessibility features for the 2014 Field Test, and developing communications strategies to support the transition to the next generation assessments.

As part of preparations for the 2014 Field Test, the ASSETS Team has obtained valuable input from Steering Committee and Subcommittee members regarding policy communications.
- Technology Subcommittee
  - Held a call on December 13, 2013 to discuss and provide recommendations on:
    - Technology Requirements for the operational test and the Operational RFP
    - Best practices to collect information on recommended headsets for ACCESS 2.0 use
    - Review of Field Test plans and outreach in the coming months
  - Shared feedback with WIDA/CAL on the field test video tutorial being developed, a draft of the Online Test Administration Manual for the Field Test, and score report options
- Steering Committee
  - Provided feedback on score report options

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Technology Requirements Document Release
- The ASSETS Team released the official technology requirements for the operational ACCESS for ELLs. 2.0
- To access the document, please visit the Technology page of the ASSETS website.

Additional information about ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, including a timeline and strategies for successful implementation, is available on the ASSETS website.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

ASSETS test development partners continued to produce and modify computerized test items for the upcoming field test. WIDA and CAL held their quarterly meeting in Washington D.C. December 17th and 18th, at which they discussed plans for the interim assessments, training materials for the field test, as well as progress on the ACCESS 2.0 RFP. On December 18th, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) helped lead a webinar for district Technology Coordinators to familiarize them with components of the field testing platform and to explain the technology resources that will be available in January.

At UCLA, work on the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions has included analysis of student explanation samples and coding the language samples. The team also continued their work on professional development modules, incorporating feedback and discussion from the WIDA/UCLA meeting in November.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
- ASSETS Field Test Webinars: Test Coordinator Training January 14th-17th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. CT.
  - Note that webinars will be recorded and posted to the ASSETS Website (Field Test section).
- Ongoing Recruitment for the ACCESS 2.0 field test: WIDA is still looking for participants for March- June 2014
  - Please contact **Paula White** at WIDA, pawhite1@wisc.edu, with suggested districts or any questions

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In December 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)

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
    - CAL is moving forward with the transfer of field test items to DRC
    - Continued listening item development
- On-demand screener
    - Continued foundational work on screener and summative assessment items
- Interim assessments
    - CAL presented an overview of plans to the ELL SCASS via webinar
    - Discussed changes to the prototypes and design to increase the utility of the Interim assessments for teachers
- Formative assessment resources – Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
    - Continued to analyze data and code student explanations
    - Created outlines of professional development modules with WIDA support

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 multiple communications resources to the ASSETS website to help educators stay informed of field test plans and strategies to prepare for the operational test

5.0 Evaluate the technical quality, validity, and reliability of the assessments and the effectiveness of the professional development
- WIDA/CAL discussed outcomes of the November Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting in St. Louis, including considerations for interim assessments

6.0 Create a transition plan to scale up and sustain the new assessment system
- Held meetings to address WIDA cross-departmental collaboration and overall preparations needed as the consortium transitions to computerized testing

Upcoming Communication and Outreach Goals
- Prepare outreach materials for states to disseminate about both the 2015 Field Test and operational test
    - Please note that new information, including updated FAQs and field test information, is regularly added to the ASSETS website: assetsproject.org