EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | MAY 2014

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field testing was in full swing throughout May. By the end of the month, over 8,000 students had completed field testing. With only one month to go, we are nearing the end of the 2014 field test!

WIDA appreciates all of the efforts of educators and students who have participated in this year's field test. We are still in need of participants who can complete testing by June 30th. WIDA and Data Recognition Corporation will walk administrators and technology coordinators through the test preparation and can ship headsets within just 1-2 days. Please contact Paula White (pawhite1@wisc.edu, 608-263-4353) if your district can participate.

May was a busy month for ASSETS subcommittees as they prepared for the June WIDA/ASSETS Board Meeting in Middleton, Wisconsin. The meeting will include discussion of transition plans for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, including each of the subcommittee's work related to the transition. Key topics include:

- **Accommodations, Accessibility, and Equity (AAE) Subcommittee**: Allowable accommodations guidelines and creating professional development resources related to accommodations
- **EL Definition Subcommittee**: Recent discussions on Home Language Survey questions and a draft EL Definition; outcomes of the national cross-consortium meeting on classification (May 23rd in Washington D.C.)
- **Interim Assessment Subcommittee**: A demonstration and discussion of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)'s interim assessment design
- **Reporting Subcommittee**: Considerations and possible reporting changes to provide additional information to support end users
- **Technology Subcommittee**: Outcomes of the 2014 field test, operational rollout plans, and materials to assist SEAs and districts in implementing the new assessments in 2015-16

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

In addition to supporting this year's field test activities, in May, all test development partners met in Washington D.C. to discuss upcoming development and item transfers for the 2015 field test. WIDA and CAL also held a quarterly meeting on topics related to ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 operational plans, interim assessment development, and a new rater training program. A total of 47 educators from 25 WIDA states participated in a Content Review and Bias and Sensitivity Review of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 listening items in Washington D.C. The WIDA Teaching and Learning team traveled to UCLA to discuss professional development resources being developed for the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
- June 25-27: Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) National Conference on Student Assessment in New Orleans, LA. ASSETS project staff will present on three panels:
    - A Cross-Consortium plenary session comprised of the leaders of all six testing consortia addressing each consortium's transition plans
    - A Cross-Consortium technology session comprised of key technology leads discussing technology considerations and collaboration on technology readiness
    - An ASSETS overview session on the design and development plans for the computerized summative test and WIDA and state communications strategies for implementation
- June 30: ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 field testing ends

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
Com N 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

Robert Fugate (VA)	Melissa McGavock (OK)	Jennifer Paul (MI)
Jonathan Gibson (NV)	Nancy Mullins (ME)	Barry Pedersen (IL)
James McCobb (VT)	Phil Olsen (WI)	Ilhye Yoon (MD)

SUBCOMMITTEES
*Committee chairs are in **bold***

ACCOMMODATIONS
Susan Beard (AL)
Michelle Blakey-Tuggle (DC)
Grace Gray (AK)
Robin Holbrook (WY)
Linda Howley (MI)
Boon Lee (IL)
Audrey Lesondak (WI)
Drew Linkon (MO)
Terry Richard (DE)
Dely Roberts (AL)
Dan Wiener (MA)

EL DEFINITION
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Seon Eun (IL)
Crystal Fields (SC)
Jonathan Gibson (NV)
Grace Gray (AK)
James McCobb (VT)
Christina Nava (ID)
Leigh Schleicher (MN)
Maria Silva (MI)
Raquel Sinai (NJ)
Nadja Trez (NC)
Michelle Williams (MI)

INTERIM ASSESSMENT
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Erika Bolig (MI)
Nichole Hall (ID)
Jennifer Malonson (MA)
Nancy Mullins (ME)
Shereen Tabrizi (MI)
Nadja Trez (NC)

REPORTING
Robert Fugate (VA)
Jason Kolb (MI)
Ursula Lentz (MN)
Ivanna Thrower (NC)
Ji Zeng (MI)

TECHNOLOGY
Cheryl Alcaya (MN)
Matthew Ayotte (MI)
Jan Lanier (TN)
Phil Olsen (WI)
Jennifer Paul (MI)
Barry Pedersen (IL)
Andrea Somoza-Norton (NH)
Brian Swiger (NC)
Paulette Watson (MA)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In May 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
- Proposed updates to the ASSETS Consortium Management Plan to capture the current phase and activities of the ASSETS project. Prepared for upcoming Board Meeting discussions on topics that will include:
  - Each subcommittee's purposes and upcoming activities; Consortium governance
  - Transition plans for the end of the ASSETS grant in 2015

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 to field test 2014 Speaking, Reading, and Writing items and to plan for 2015 field test
  - Held face-to-face meeting regarding upcoming production and item transfers for the 2015 field test
  - WIDA and CAL held Content Review and Bias and Sensitivity Review for new Listening items
- On-demand screener
  - Continued to field test computerized screener items, along with summative items
- Interim assessments
  - Held workshops to discuss innovative design plans and a prototype for the new assessments
- Formative assessment resources – Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
  - Continued data analysis and discussions on the learning progressions
  - Held WIDA/UCLA face-to-face meeting to discuss professional development modules and plans for WIDA staff trainings on the progressions

3.0 Create foundations for technology-based training program for scorers
- WIDA and CAL discussed plans and timelines for the technology-based training program for scorers (to be available in 2015)

4.0 Create professional development and outreach materials
- Continued to update website preparation resources for the field test and operational test
- WIDA and project partners participated in a Cross-Consortium Technology presentation with other testing consortia at the IMS Global Learning Consortium *Learning Impact Leadership Institute* in New Orleans, LA

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
- Surveyed and analyzed responses from SEAs across the consortium on 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

Upcoming Communications and Outreach Goals
- All SEAs: please share with member states and districts the new **Guide to Technology Requirements** tool that allows users to view information, by state, about technology requirements: http://gtr.setda.org/
- *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Rollout Timeline for the Operational Test* – SEA discussion at Board Meeting
- *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar Recording* (outlining changes to expect with ACCESS for ELLs 2.0) – will be finalized and released/posted to the ASSETS website in July