

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | AUGUST 2014

WIDA and the ASSETS Project team are excited to begin our transition year to the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment, which will become operational in the 2015-16 school year! In the coming months, WIDA will share a number of planning communications, including invitations to participate in webinars for the 2015 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test and the operational test.

A successful transition in the coming year will rely heavily on keeping educators who will be working with the new assessments apprised of upcoming changes. To that end, WIDA will be adding new materials to the WIDA website, including the resources outlined in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Rollout Plan. WIDA will continue to share information with SEAs about where to locate the new materials and update the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Rollout Plan with the weblinks of posted materials.

As part of streamlining communications, beginning next month, WIDA will also make changes to our monthly consortium communications. The WIDA SEA Bulletin will begin to have a monthly ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 section that will make it easy for SEAs to disseminate that information. The ASSETS Monthly Report will shift to being a short report of progress on grant deliverables and will be posted to the ASSETS Project website rather than included in monthly emails from WIDA.

GENERAL TEST DEVELOPMENT

In August, WIDA and project partners continued to analyze data from the 2014 Field Test while making great progress on item production and transfers for the 2015 Field Test. Based on feedback from participants of the 2014 Field Test, WIDA is adapting a number of the webinars and preparation materials to create brief topical resources that will best serve technology coordinators, district test coordinators, and test administrators.

As we head into our transition year, departments across WIDA are collaborating on resources that will support the new assessments. These resources include professional development materials to accompany a new Accommodations matrix for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, materials to support the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions, and a host of new materials for the 2015 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test and operational test.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Question and Answer Webinar** for districts (September 19, 2014; 3:00pm CDT).
- **2015 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test Webinar** for districts (September 26, 2014; 3:00pm CDT)
- **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 underway for the 2015 Field Test, which will include all four language domains. 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

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Carsten Wilmes, Ph.D., Project Director

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Phil Olsen, Assistant Project Director

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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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SUBCOMMITTEES

*Committee chairs are in **bold***

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS TOWARD GRANT DELIVERABLES

In August 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 Subcommittees
 - Plans are underway to hold calls in the fall once the operational test vendor has been selected

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 analysis of 2014 ACCESS 2.0 Field Test results (for Speaking, Reading, and Writing items) and operational/rollout plans for 2015-16
 - Held ongoing calls regarding production and item transfers for the 2015 ACCESS 2.0 Field Test
- On-demand screener
 - Continued analysis of 2014 Field Test results and held WIDA/CAL discussions about development plans and timelines for the on-demand screener
- Interim assessments
 - Held meetings to discuss design plans and the prototypes being developed for the new assessments
- Formative assessment resources – Dynamic Language Learning Progressions
 - Continued data analysis for the language learning progressions
 - Held calls to discuss PD modules and plans for upcoming WIDA staff training on the progressions

3.0 Create foundations for technology-based training program for scorers

- Held planning meetings for the technology-based training program for scorers (to be 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
- Began initial outreach with states regarding recruitment for the 2015 ACCESS 2.0 Field Test

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

- Discussed psychometric considerations and validation of the assessments and the transition

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

- Held discussions with Board Members about consortium governance, the WIDA membership package, and 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 the following resources:
 - The new *Overview of Online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0* webinar recording, which is posted to the [ASSETS Project website](#) (Implementation/Operational Test section)
 - The SETDA **Guide to Technology Requirements** tool, which allows users to view information, by state, about each consortium's technology requirements: <http://qtr.setda.org/>
 - Information and preparation materials for the 2015 ACCESS 2.0 Field Test: wida.us/2.0/FT