

# ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

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## What's New for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0?

### Latest News

WIDA encourages educators to try out the new sample items for the online test:

- [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Sample Items](#)
- [Sample Items instructions](#)

In addition, please review and share with IEP teams the new [Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines](#) and the [Accessibility and Accommodations Descriptions](#).

WIDA is creating additional training materials, including a pre-recorded webinar, to assist educators who will be implementing the new guidelines.

### Website Updates

The following new materials are now available:

- New checklists for the three roles for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0:
  - [Technology Coordinator](#)
  - [Test Coordinator – online test](#)
  - [Test Coordinator – paper-based test](#)
  - [Test Administrator – online test](#)
  - [Test Administrator – paper-based test](#)
- Updated Facilitator Toolkit PowerPoint ([ACCESS for ELLs 2.0](#))

### Upcoming Releases

Item	Date
ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Test Administration Manuals, including Kindergarten and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs	September 4
WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS), WIDA AMS User Guide Part 1, and WIDA AMS web-based modules	September 4
WIDA AMS User Guide Part 2 and remaining web-based modules that will be needed prior to test administration	September 22

### Face-to-Face Training

In cases where states select to hold face-to-face trainings for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, information about training dates are being added to the [WIDA website states' pages](#) as they become available. This information is listed under "State-specific guidance for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0" as it becomes available.

WIDA is pleased to offer a special [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 face-to-face training](#) after the WIDA National Conference (October 15-17, 2015) in Las Vegas, Nevada. If you are interested in learning more or registering for this October 17th post-conference session, please visit the [conference website](#).

## Technology Corner

WIDA has received questions about whether headphones that are purchased for other assessments can be used for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 online test.

To clarify the headset requirement, students may use any headphones for the Listening, Reading, and Writing tests. For these domains, students will only use the headphones to listen to the test directions.

For the Speaking test, students will need headsets, which include a built-in microphone. Unlike academic content testing, English Language Proficiency assessment includes a speaking component, and this audio is recorded electronically.

While it might be possible to add a stand-alone microphone in addition to headphones to capture audio, in practice, this increases the complexity of the technology needed for the assessment. WIDA recommends against this approach, as the microphones often need drivers that can create a more complicated test set up.

For more information on headset specifications, please refer to the [Recommendations for Headset Specifications document](#) on the WIDA website. As noted in the document, because the online Speaking test is administered to small groups (3-5 students), individual Test Administrators will only need headsets to administer to that number of students.

### Question of the Month

#### ***When should we hold trainings for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0?***

All ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 training for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators will be available virtually through the enhanced ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Training Course. The Training Course is being revised this summer for release by September 4.

WIDA is developing a series of short, web-based modules that educators can complete on their own schedule. The new course will include electronic checklists that allow designated users to chart their progress and will include links to all needed materials, such as Test Administration Manuals and the web-based modules.

Save the date for the fall webinars for each testing role:

Webinar	Date	Time
Test Coordinator Overview Webinars (4 webinars)	September 23 and September 24	10:30am CT and 1:00pm CT (same times both days)
Test Administrator Overview Webinar (2 webinars)	September 30	10:30am CT and 1:00pm CT
Technology Coordinator Overview Webinar (2 webinars)	October 7 October 9 (newly added!)	3:00pm CT 10:00am CT

## Question of the Month, continued

Each of the overview webinars will include a presentation followed by a question and answer session. The webinars are scheduled for up to 1.5 hours and the content for any repeat webinars will be the same. The webinars will be recorded and posted to the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Preparation Resources page.

For a detailed training timeline and to access the preparation materials that are currently available, please visit the [Preparation Resources](#) webpage.

Link	What You'll Find
<b>Tech Coordinators</b> button	INSIGHT testing information, including release dates for manuals and web-based modules that describe how to set up the INSIGHT testing engine and prepare systems for testing
<b>Test Coordinators</b> button	Release dates for documents and web-based modules that describe the new test coordination procedures, including directions on setting up test sessions and ordering paper-based materials
<b>Test Admins</b> button	Release dates for documents and web-based modules for administering the test, including managing students and test sessions.

WIDA is a consortium of 36 states. WIDA advances academic language development and academic achievement for linguistically diverse students through high quality standards, assessments, research, and professional development for educators. Each year, WIDA touches the lives of millions of students and educators as it furthers educational equity and success for PreK-12 English language learners.