ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

What's New for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0?

Latest News

WIDA and member state representatives have created new *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines* and *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Accessibility and Accommodations Descriptions* for the 2015-16 school year. As noted in the new materials, WIDA has focused on extending the range of accessibility and accommodation supports to as many English language learners as possible.

Please review these important resources and share them with IEP teams, ELL/LEP teams, and others who will be administering either the paper or online version of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. WIDA is in the process of developing additional resources (e.g. an FAQs document, Toolkit PowerPoint, and training activities) that will assist educators in the upcoming year.

Website Updates

The following new materials have recently posted:

- ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Sample Items for the Public
    - Try out these interactive items to learn about the look and feel of the new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 online assessment!
- Sample Items Instructions
- Sample Items Screenshots
- Updated Facilitator Toolkit PowerPoints

As a reminder, all public information about the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 2015–16 Operational Test can be accessed via the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 webpage. This will continue to be the case while WIDA revises the ACCESS for ELLs information on the website this summer.

For individuals who regularly share the direct link to the Preparation Resources webpage, a short link is also available: wida.us/access_2.0/preparation.

State-specific Guidance

Because states vary in their technology readiness, each WIDA member state is setting guidelines for online testing and outlining the circumstances in which the paper-based test would be administered (if applicable). WIDA is in the process of working with each state to determine these guidelines and will post all state-specific instructions, along with testing dates, on the WIDA state's pages as states finalize them. Until this information is posted to the WIDA website, the member state agency contacts listed on the page will be the best contacts about specific testing plans in each state.

Upcoming Releases

August 2015: Revised role-based checklists for Technology Coordinators, Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators

September 4: Release of the new WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS) and web-based training modules listed on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Preparation Resources page

Technology Corner

The online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will require the assistance of a school or district Technology Coordinator, who will assist with technical and system set up for the online testing. This person will be able to contact Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) with any technical questions during set up or testing sessions.

Please share with Technology Coordinators that systems requirements for the online test are available on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Technology webpage. WIDA recommends that Technology Coordinators watch the Technology Coordinator webinar recorded May 1st, 2015 and review the Q & A document. In addition, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) has compiled a list of Technology FAQs about the INSIGHT Testing Engine and Testing Site Manager (TSM) software.

Questions of the Month

What do I need to know about the transition to ACCESS for ELLs 2.0?

WIDA will be transitioning to ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 for the 2015-2016 school year. Each state department of education will determine whether students will be assessed using the online or paper-based test. Your state department of education will be able to give you guidance and let educators know whether you will be testing with the online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, paper-based, or a combination.

WIDA will continue to have a paper-based assessment for Kindergarten as well as the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment (for students with significant cognitive disabilities). These assessments will not change and the training for these two is currently available in the WIDA Training Course, which can be accessed using a WIDA account. Since the grades 1-12 assessments will be all new, new trainings will be posted once they are available in early September 2015.

What can educators do now to prepare for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 online test administration until the new training is ready?

On the Preparation Resources webpage, educators may view all of the currently available and upcoming resources. WIDA especially recommends watching the pre-recorded Overview of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar (May 2015) and the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Live Webinar/Question and Answer Session (Friday, April 24). Educators can also view the 2015 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test materials. These materials are being updated to reflect the look and feel of the new systems but will give an understanding of how the new procedures will work.

Please contact the WIDA Client Services Center with any administration questions: help@wida.us, 866-276-7735.

Please contact Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) with any technical or DRC systems questions: WIDA@datarecognitioncorporation.com, 855-787-9615.

Face-to-Face Training

WIDA would like to remind educators that there will be 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 session, please visit the conference website.

> WIDA is a consortium of 35 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.