



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

JULY 24, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Test Coordinators

FROM: Tony Eitel
Director for Assessment Administration

SUBJECT: ACCESS for ELLs (ACCESS 2.0) 2015-2016 Administration Update

In 2015-2016, Georgia will begin administration of a newly developed ACCESS for ELLs (ACCESS 2.0) summative assessment. The new program will include an online mode for test administration that will replace the former paper-based version of ACCESS for ELLs for Grades 1-12. A paper-based assessment will continue to be available for students who may have a disability that requires paper-based testing. Additionally, GaDOE will assist systems in gaining paper-pencil test materials for schools that are unable to test all English Learner (EL) students online due to technology limitations. Importantly, please note that there will be no changes, in mode or otherwise, to the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs in 2015-2016.

As with the previous version of ACCESS for ELLs, the tasks on the new summative assessment will attempt to replicate the kinds of communicative situations (and the language needed to be processed or produced within them) that might be encountered in different school contexts. Each assessment item and task will target at least one of the five WIDA English Development Standards (ELDs):

- Social and Instructional Language
- Language of Language Arts
- Language of Mathematics
- Language of Science
- Language of Social Studies

STATE TESTING WINDOW:

Georgia's 2015-2016 ACCESS for ELLs testing window appears below. You will note that it remains similar to the window of previous years.

- January 19, 2016 – March 4, 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION:

ACCESS for ELLs will continue to assess each of the four language domains separately: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. WIDA recommends that students first take the Listening test and then the Reading test. Speaking and Writing may be taken in either order. Target administration times range from 30 minutes up to 60 minutes.

ONLINE MODE

- ACCESS for ELLs will assess (via the *online* platform) Grades 1-12 using the following **new** clusters: Grade 1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12.
- The Writing domain for the online ACCESS for ELLs Grade 1 and Grades 2-3 forms will continue to be administered on paper. The same will be true for Grades 4-5 in 2015-2016.
- The *online* test is a staged, adaptive test, meaning students will progress through the test based on their performance.
 - Due to this adaptability, the *online* test will not require the tier placement of students in order to administer the test.
 - Note: In cases where the paper test is administered, schools must continue to identify the appropriate tier as in previous years. See below.
- Each student testing online will require a computer and headset *with microphone* for the Speaking test – and headphones for the other domains. Detailed information about technology requirements is posted at this location: <https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-tech.aspx>.
- The domains may be administered across multiple days in the manner that best works for scheduling purposes and the use of technology. However, a single domain may not be broken into separate administrations.
- The online platform will not have a limit on the number of students who can test at one time.
 - For Speaking, it is recommended that groups of 5-7 students (or fewer) test simultaneously so that headset microphones do not capture other voices. Students of different grades may test in the same room at the same time, but this is not required and schools/systems may wish to consider if this is appropriate for the students involved.

PAPER-PENCIL MODE

- Kindergarten will continue to be paper-based (only) in 2015-2016.
- The paper test in Grades 1-12 will include the following grade clusters: Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grades 4-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12.
 - In 2016-2017, the paper test will be updated to have the same grade clusters as the online test.
- Tier placements are required for paper testing and the protocols will remain the same as previous years.

Note that additional details will be provided during our upcoming Fall Assessment Conference General Session and through multiple training resources and webinar sessions that will occur during the months of September 2015 – January 2016 (see below).

IMPORTANT DATES & TRAINING EVENTS/RESOURCES:

- August 12 & 14, 2015: Overview via Fall Assessment Conference (General Session)
- September-Early October 2015: Availability of Online Training Modules for WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS)
 - Click on the *Test Coordinators*, *Test Admins* [Examiners], and *Tech Coordinators* buttons that appear at http://wida.us/access_2.0/preparation for details.
 - Key components of required activities (for both online and paper-pencil testing) will be addressed (materials ordering, technology preparations, Pre-ID submission, online testing downloads, test session creation, student management, etc.)
 - Videos and PowerPoint resources will be available
- September 23, 2015: System/School Test Coordinator's Overview Webinar
 - Webinar link will be posted at: http://wida.us/access_2.0/preparation

- September 30, 2015: Test Administrator's (Examiner's) Overview Webinar
 - Webinar link will be posted at: http://wida.us/access_2.0/preparation
- Fall 2015: Availability of **required** Online Certification/Training Courses for Grades K, 1-12 (Paper), and 1-12 (Online)
 - Trainings will vary based upon administration mode (online or paper)
- October 7, 2015: Technology Coordinator's Overview Webinar
 - Webinar link will be posted at: http://wida.us/access_2.0/preparation
- October 12 – November 30, 2015: Test Materials Ordering & Pre-ID files due directly from local systems to WIDA
 - System Test Coordinators on record with GaDOE Assessment will receive log-in access to the WIDA AMS
 - Systems must denote paper testing needs and online testing estimates in the WIDA AMS
 - Your local system Pre-ID file will be submitted directly to the WIDA AMS by your system (File layout will be posted in the same location)
 - The Pre-ID file layout will match the one used in previous years with the exception of a small number of new (and optional) fields that appear at the end of the layout
 - GTID (10-digit) must be used in the *State Student ID* field (District Student ID must be left blank)
- November 10, 2015: Alternate ACCESS Pre-Administration Webinar (Pre-Registration link TBD)
- November 12, 2015: ACCESS for ELLs Pre-Administration Webinar (Pre-Registration link TBD)
- December 18, 2015: Online Test Set-Up Window Opens (through March 4, 2016)
- January 5, 2016: Test Materials Arrive in local systems
- January 7, 2016: Pre-Administration Question & Answer Webinar
- January 19 – March 4, 2016: Georgia ACCESS for ELLs State Testing Window
- April 4 – 15, 2016: Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window
- May 2 – 6, 2016: Reports arrive in local systems (both printed and online)
- May 2 – 13, 2016: Post-Reporting Data Validation Window
- May 4 – 5, 2016: Post-Administration Webinar
- May 26, 2016: Final data available (following Post-Reporting Data Validation)

You may also refer to the 2015-2016 Assessment Webinar Schedule that is posted on the GaDOE website at: [2015-2016 Assessment Webinar Schedule](#).

TECHNOLOGY/ONLINE TESTING INFORMATION/RESOURCES:

Technology requirements, FAQs, and general information about the software components for the online system can be found at: [Technology Requirements, FAQs, General Information](#). Additionally, the Technology Coordinator Checklist and test preparation resources can be found at: [Technology Coordinator Checklist](#).

ADDITIONAL PREPARATION RESOURCES:

Additional information can be located at: http://wida.us/access_2.0/preparation.

- Sample Items – to demonstrate sample content that students will encounter on ACCESS for ELLs:
 - Sample items for the public [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Sample Items for the Public Instructions](#)
 - Sample screen shots for the public [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Sample Items for the Public Screenshots](#)

- Pre-recorded ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 webinar – explains in detail the changes to expect with ACCESS for ELLs for each domain: [Overview of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar](#)

Recordings and Q&A documents

- ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Overview and Q & A Session
 - Recording [Webinar recording](#)
 - Q & A Document [Q & A document](#)
- Webinar for Technology Coordinators
 - Recording [Webinar recording](#)
 - Q & A Document [Q & A document](#)

CUSTOMER SERVICE INFORMATION:

WIDA/Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) Customer Service for materials and technology needs/questions: (855) 787-9615; WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com.

- 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (through Aug. 14, 2015)
- 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM (beginning Aug. 17, 2015)

WIDA contact information for general inquires can be found at: <https://www.wida.us/contactUs.aspx>.

GaDOE ASSESSMENT CONTACT:

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