Summary of GaDOE Guidance on new WIDA Remote Screening for Potential English Learners in Kindergarten and Grades 1-12 2020-2021

Note: This summary is a companion document to the GaDOE English Learner Decision Guide for the Identification of ELs in FY2020-2021 and is based on available information as of the date below. As new information is available or GaDOE procedures are revised and changed, the guidance document and this summary will be updated.

1. If students and experienced WIDA certified test administrators can be in the same location at the same time (in-person screening), then LEAs **must** administer the standard WIDA Screeners to potential English learners.

2. LEAs have **flexibility** to administer the new WIDA Remote Screener if students and experienced WIDA certified test administrators **cannot** be in the same location at the same time (in-person screening).

3. LEAs **must** identify EL students within the Federal identification timeline - "30 days of enrollment in a school in the state".
   a. EL identification may result from the Remote WIDA Screener Outcomes or from the standard WIDA Screener Score results.
   b. Identified ELs must be coded as such in SIS.
   c. Parents must be provided the opportunity to waive language services.
   d. An ESOL language instruction must be provided for identified ELs, whose parents have not opted them out of ESOL.
   e. Identified EL students have the right to testing accommodations (EL/TPC).

4. When administering the WIDA Remote Screener to Kindergarten students, LEAs have **flexibility** to choose whether to re-screen Kinder students or not, since the standard Kinder screener only screens two (2) language domains and this is the largest group of students to screen.
   a. LEAs **must** follow WIDA's identification guidelines based on the Remote Screener outcomes.
   b. LEAs may want to consider re-screening Kindergarten students identified as EL=No by the Remote Screener, if there is any concern that the outcomes may not be accurate.

    c. If any questions arise from parents or teachers concerning the student's identification, the LEA should attempt to rescreen the student with the standard Kindergarten WIDA Screener to provide parents with additional information.

5. When administering the WIDA Remote Screener to potential EL students in grades 1-12, LEAs **must re-screen** these students, <u>regardless of the Remote Screener outcome,</u> since the Remote Screener only screens students in three language domains and the Office for Civil Rights requires LEAs to screen students in all four language domains.
    a. This re-screening process may occur after the first 30 days of the school year.
    b. If possible, LEAs should consider re-screening before the Oct FTE.
    c. If it is not possible to rescreen before Oct FTE, student's EL status may be updated in SIS and any Data Collection errors would be relievable.
    d. If <u>it is not possible</u> to re-screen students in grades 1-12 **before the ACCESS testing window opens in January 2021,** LEAs would then administer the ACCESS to all remote-screener-identified ELs and follow statewide EL exit criteria using ACCESS test results in May.

6. WIDA provides LEAs with **flexibility** to decide how the test administrator will call the students and what technology to use for this call.
    a. GaDOE recommends that ESOL Directors collaborate with System Testing Coordinators (STC) to decide how the screener materials will be presented to the students.
    b. If LEAs choose to present screener materials electronically, or in a manner different than what is described in WIDA guidelines and instructions, then this procedure must be documented by the LEA's STC on the testing irregularity form under ACCESS and submitted as the LEA's remote screener procedures.
        i. The testing irregularity form does not need to be submitted on an individual student basis.
        ii. The testing irregularity form does not need to be submitted if the testing materials are provided to the families in the manner prescribed by WIDA.