

FAQs – WIDA’s New Screener for Kindergarten

Which Kindergarten Screener, & Why?

Questions	Answers
Which screener do we administer to the 2021-2022 Kindergarten potential EL students?	The new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neither the Kindergarten W-APT nor the Kindergarten MODEL may be used to screen potential ELs who will be 2021-2022 Kindergarten or 1st Semester Grade 1 students.
Why are we transitioning to the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is aligned to the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Kindergarten Assessment. It is a valid and reliable screener. It standardizes the screening process statewide.
For 2021-2022 digital learners, will there be a remote option for the new Kindergarten Screener?	We do not anticipate USED approving the use of a remote or temporary screening process for the 2021-2022 year.
WIDA says the Kindergarten W-APT will be supported through 2021-2022. Is it a state-to-state decision when to transition to the new screener?	Yes, the decision is made by each state, not by WIDA. Georgia has decided to use the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten as the only Kindergarten screener starting in the 2021-2022 school year. In Georgia, the WIDA Kindergarten W-APT was retired on May 31, 2021, and is longer a valid screener for 2021-2022 Kindergarten or 1 st Semester 1 st Grade students.
Many districts screen current Pre-K students in the spring for English learner eligibility in the fall. Can we use the Kindergarten W-APT to screen these students, since WIDA is not “retiring” the Kindergarten W-APT until the end of the 2021-2022 school year?	Although districts still have the flexibility to screen Pre-K students in the spring, they must use the new WIDA Screener to screen rising 2021-2022 Kindergarten students . See information shared on the April 14 ESOL Directors’ Munch & Learn Webinar .
Our Pre-K students complete a Home Language Survey (HLS) upon entry to the district that is rolled-up into Kindergarten. They do not complete a Kindergarten HLS. We have typically screened Pre-K potential ELs in May based on this HLS data. If we waited until August to screen these students,	This would be a local decision. Please ensure the HLS has the parents' signature and date. A Kindergarten HLS would have a date that demonstrates compliance with the 30-day federal requirement to identify EL students. In addition, please communicate to parents that you are making a screening decision



should we use the PreK HLS to determine which students to screen, or should we ask parents to complete another HLS in August?	based on a PreK HLS and ensure their responses are still what they want to report to the state.
We have a Kindergarten student who transferred in from a WIDA state, but that state elected to not use the new <i>WIDA Screener for Kindergarten</i> . Do we re-screen the student on the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten?	No. The screening process is done only once. Georgia honors other state's identification of EL status. There is no need to re-screen. Maintain the out-of-state documentation in the student's permanent record, whether digital or paper. If using the ELP Screener application in SLDS, record the screener results as out-of-state.

New Screener Training and Cost of Materials

Questions	Answers
Who has access to the training course and test materials for the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Test Coordinators • Staff who had access to Kindergarten W-APT • Teachers who have permissions for the online WIDA Screener, Grades 1-12
Will educators who have a WIDA Secure Portal login/password with permission to take the ACCESS test administration training have the same permission to access the new Screener for Kindergarten training material?	Only System Test Coordinators (STCs) and staff who had permission to access the Kindergarten W-APT and WIDA Screener received updated permissions. Teachers who only administered the ACCESS test last year did not receive updated credentials.
What is the deadline to get trained to administer this screener?	As with all screener and assessment training, test administrators must be trained prior to administering the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten. The screener materials and training are available in the WIDA Secure Portal. Test administrators must take the training and pass the quizzes with an 80% passing score before administering the screener.
Where is the Screener assessment training course? What about certification?	Training for the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is available in the WIDA Secure Portal. The training course is hosted on WIDA's <i>Canvas</i> platform. STCs will be able to view certification status for educators as in the past for training certification status for the other WIDA Screeners and the ACCESS test.
Why do teachers have to take the WIDA Kindergarten Screener training again in July if they completed it in May?	The test administrator certification is valid for the school year in which the training and quizzes were taken. If teachers were trained and certified for the 2020-2021 school year, their certification expired June 30, 2021. To be certified to administer the screener in 2021-2022 teachers will need 2021-2022

	certification. They can simply retake the quizzes in July and receive the 2021-2022 certification.
How much will the Kindergarten Screener cost?	Within the Screener training, WIDA has provided a link to the WIDA store where the cost of the screener materials is listed. See also information shared on slide #24 in the April 14 ESOL Directors' Munch & Learn Webinar .
Can Federal or Title funds be used to purchase screener materials – or must we use general funds?	No. General funds must be used to purchase or fund the cost of reproducing the WIDA screener test materials. See EL Language Programs – State Guidance , pg. 16.

Screener Assessment Materials Security

Questions	Answers
Is the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten a secure assessment?	Yes, the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is a secure assessment. The security of the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten must follow local system guidance.
Who is responsible to ensure the security of the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten?	All personnel in contact with secure materials, to include System and School Test Coordinators, ESOL Department personnel, and personnel administering the WIDA Screeners must follow standard assessment procedures to ensure the security and integrity of the WIDA Screener assessments.
What security procedures must a school or system establish for the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All WIDA Screeners must be administered by a GaPSC-certified educator who has successfully completed the WIDA training and passed the certification quizzes. 2. Personnel administering the screener assessments are directly responsible for the security of screener assessment materials and must account for all materials within their custody. 3. Screener materials must <u>always</u> be kept secure. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. While in the Screener Test Examiner’s custody, secure Screener materials must be kept in a locked storage area when not being used for actual administration to students. b. During Screener administration, materials and students must always be supervised. c. At no time should the Screener Test Examiner or other personnel keep

	<p>test materials in a classroom or other unauthorized storage area overnight.</p> <p>d. Screener Test Examiners must account for all Screener materials before dismissing students from the testing room.</p> <p>e. At the conclusion of each Screener administration, Screener Test Examiners are responsible for immediately returning all screener materials to the School Test Coordinator.</p>
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Screener Administration, Scoring, & Maintaining Documentation

Questions	Answers
<p>WIDA reported that states will decide if the screener will include all four domains. In the past, using the Kindergarten W-APT, we tested listening and speaking only for students in the first semester Kindergarten. Will that stay the same, or will we administer all four domains?</p>	<p>For students enrolling in 1st Semester Kindergarten:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer only the Listening and Speaking sections. <p>For students enrolling in 2nd Semester Kindergarten through 1st Semester Grade 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer all four domains – Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.
<p>The scoring for the new screener mirrors that of the ACCESS, resulting in ELP Levels 1-6. Where is new Kindergarten Eligibility Flowchart posted?</p>	<p>The new Kindergarten Screener EL Entrance Flowchart is posted on the ESOL Language Program website.</p>
<p>What is the English learner (EL) eligibility criteria for students being screened with the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten?</p> <p>What is the “cut-off” score on the new Screener for Kindergarten when a student is not eligible for EL status?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in 1st semester Kindergarten will be eligible for EL status when their Composite Oral Language Proficiency Level (Listening & Speaking domains) is less than 5.0. • Students in 2nd semester K through 1st semester Grade 1 will be eligible for EL status when their Overall Composite Proficiency Level (all 4 domains) is less than 5.0. <p>Please see EL Language Programs – State Guidance and the Kindergarten EL Entrance Flowchart.</p>
<p>Is it important to complete all the demographic identification information on the Kindergarten Screener Score Reports?</p>	<p>*Please ensure all the following WIDA Screener assessment materials include <u>correct and accurate identification and demographic information for each student assessed</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kindergarten Screener Score Reports generated from the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Score Calculator.

	2. Screener Cover Sheet for the Screener Score Sheets.
Where should we maintain the WIDA Score Reports and Cover Sheet/Score Sheets?	*The following documents are test records and must be retained in the student’s cumulative/permanent records: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kindergarten Screener Score Reports generated from the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Score Calculator 2. Cover Sheet with complete demographics and all Score Sheets used during the administration of WIDA Kindergarten Screener.
What do we do with the Student Response Booklet when we administer the Writing portion of the Screener to 1st Semester Grade 1 students , or Kindergarten students during 2nd Semester ?	The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Student Response Booklet for the Writing domain is a 12-page document that does not contain student demographic information. The school system may choose to securely destroy this document once the Cover Sheet & Score Sheets are complete, reflect the accurate information, and are maintained in the students’ permanent/cumulative records.
If we are no longer using “paper perm records” do you suggest we scan and upload all the score sheets, and then discard the originals?	This is a local decision. The WIDA Screener Score Report, Cover Sheet, and Score Sheets must be maintained in students’ permanent or online files and can be maintained in the SIS and in the ELP Screener application in SLDS. See EL Language Programs – State Guidance .
If we administered the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten in April, I am assuming the WIDA Score Report required the date of screener administration — should we record the April date or an August date (first day of school)? The scores will not be entered into our SIS until August.	This is a local decision. The official WIDA Screener Score Report, Cover Sheet, and Score Sheets must be maintained in the student’s permanent file and would serve as evidence that the student was identified for EL status and ESOL services within 30 days from enrollment.
Can we also upload the WIDA Screener Score Report, Cover Sheet, and Score Sheets in <i>ELlevation</i> or <i>Project EL</i> if we are not using paper perms?	It is a local decision to use the services of the <i>ELlevation</i> or <i>Project EL</i> data software platform to maintain documentation for English learners.
Can you share the link to the calculator?	The WIDA Score Calculator for Kindergarten has its own link posted on the WIDA Kindergarten Screener webpage and embedded in the training course in the WIDA Secure Portal. It is not the same Score Calculator that is used for the Grades 1-12 WIDA Screener.
Is using the ELP Screener application in SLDS a viable option for storing the results of the Screener for Kindergarten?	YES! This is one way to ensure the student’s initial English language proficiency (ELP) screener follows him/her to all transfer schools in Georgia. Thank you.

***Note:** Future questions about the student’s EL status may depend on the accuracy of the Screener Official Report documents: **Score Report, Cover Sheet, and Score Sheets**. The Official Report is a permanent record of the student’s identification for EL status or for the “Did Not Qualify” (EL-No) status.

Screener Accommodations

Questions	Answers
Is there a way to modify or accommodate the screening process for students with significant development delay?	Yes – Accommodations must be determined through the IEP process. Refer to the State Accommodations Handbook and the WIDA Accessibility Supplement (Paper Screeners) for additional guidance.
Are the accommodations for the screener ONLY for SWD?	Yes, only for students who have an IEP.
Do Special Education Coordinators receive the same information that ESOL Coordinators receive concerning accommodations on the ELP Screeners and Assessments?	Special Education Coordinators were invited to the ESOL Directors’ Munch & Learn Webinar and are invited to four Open Office Hours designed to respond to school system questions about the transition to the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten.
Wouldn’t it be unusual for a student new to U.S. schools who already had an IEP to enroll and provide HLS responses that would trigger ELP screening?	It may be rare, but not unheard of. Since parents respond to the HLS, not students, there have been instances of some students’ families speaking a primary language other than English, and the student may have identified or suspected disabilities.
Based on the administrator’s script provided by WIDA in the secure portal, I do not see any accommodations needed for students being screened on the Listening and Speaking sections only. It seems the screener’s built-in features should “accommodate” the needs of students with IEPs on the Listening and Speaking sections, right?	Accommodations should be determined by the IEP committee based on accommodations routinely used to allow the student access to the curriculum. Some accommodations may not be necessary due to universal accessibility options available. Please see a list of allowable accommodations for WIDA Screeners in the <i>2021-2022 WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement</i> .
The new Screener for Kindergarten is already individually administered by a ‘human reader,’ so it seems to me many of the accommodations are already embedded, right?	Correct. Many accommodations are already embedded in the new Screener.
Our Special Education department told us that PreK transition meetings have already taken place. If accommodations are not needed on the Listening and Speaking sections of the Screener, then we do not need to schedule special IEP meetings before July or August screening, right?	Accommodations should be determined by the IEP committee based on accommodations those listed on the <i>2021-2022 WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual</i> that are routinely used to allow the student access to the curriculum. <i>U.S.E.D’s Title IIIA Nonregulatory Guidance Amendment of Sept. 23, 2016</i> , states that “if

	the Local Education Agency (LEA) discovers that appropriate accommodations on the EL screening assessment were not provided to a student with a disability, the logical step would be to re-test the student with appropriate accommodations. If the results of the screener assessment, with accommodations, show the student is not an EL, the EL designation (status) would be removed.” Please contact ELPrograms@doe.k12.ga.us with any questions.
Is the WIDA Screener in the Go-IEP drop-down menu yet? If not, how should the IEP committee document the new Screener accommodations discussion?	Yes. Go-IEP changes were finalized in October 2020.
The 2020-2021 WIDA Accommodations Manual refers to the 1st-12th online screener, but not the Kindergarten Screener. Many of the accommodations are relative to an online screener administration. How do we correlate that to a paper/pencil administration? For example, does "repeat item audio" mean "re-read on the K screener"?	Please use the WIDA Screener Accommodation Selections-Paper chart in the <i>WIDA 2021-2022 Accessibility and Accommodations Manual</i> to identify allowable accommodations for students. You will also find a complete description of how to properly provide each accommodation within this same document. You may also want to watch the Assessment webinars on this topic. In addition, please review the Georgia Allowable Accommodations Tables found in the <i>Student Assessment Handbook</i> .
We have noticed that the new screener uses color pictures. Will there be a black and white option provided by WIDA for students who are colorblind?	Although student materials purchased from WIDA are presented in color, a school system may print hard copies from the WIDA Secure Portal in gray scale or black-and-white, if necessary.
Is a Kindergarten Screener Braille form available for the 2021-2022 school year?	Not currently.

Home Language Survey Questions

Questions	Answers
If a parent writes English and Spanish as their primary home language, do we have to screen the child?	When parents respond that the child may be developing two languages simultaneously, it is incumbent on the school system officials to interview the parent to see if the family is a candidate for the Multilingual/Multiliterate HLS Amendment. See EL Language Programs – State Guidance , pg. 12-13.

Private Schools Participating in Title III, Part A Equitable Services

Questions	Answers
<p>If a private school is participating in a federally funded program under ESSA (or CARES), are private schools required to use the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten?</p>	<p>During ongoing consultation, officials from the private school and the LEA will determine which screening measure will be used in the private school. See resources for LEAs with participating private schools on the State Ombudsman website and the Title III, Part A Program website.</p>
<p>If a private school is participating in a federally funded program under ESSA (or CARES) and plans to use the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, is the private school responsible for training staff and administering the new WIDA screener? Or is it the LEA staff who is responsible for training staff and administering the new WIDA screener for Kindergarten?</p>	<p>According to non-regulatory guidance, an LEA is responsible for ensuring that private school students are appropriately identified as ELs and cannot require a private school to administer an initial ELP screener and annual ELP assessment to those private school students. The LEA may provide training to private school officials and/or teachers so that they may administer the screeners and assessments themselves if they desire. See 2015 Title IIIA Equitable Services NRG E-2 (pg. 8), the Title IIIA Resources on the State Ombudsman website, and information posted in the Title III, Part A Language Program Handbook, pp. 47-50.</p>
<p>Can private schools participating in Title III, Part A equitable services continue to use the Kindergarten W-APT to screen Kindergarten potential ELs?</p>	<p>It is possible that the LEA and private school officials, in timely and meaningful consultation, decide to use the retired Kindergarten W-APT or the K-MODEL for initial EL identification purposes. However, both private school and LEA officials should note that as a retired screener, the Kindergarten W-APT is no longer considered a valid and reliable screener.</p>