



Indiana Department of Education

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Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Monthly Happenings: December 2015

Office of English Learning and Migrant Education

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WIDA ACCESS 2.0 Testing Window Reminder

This will be the last Monthly Happenings before the WIDA Testing Window opens. Remember that it opens January 11th, 2016 and closes February 26th, 2016.

Important information regarding the arrival of WIDA ACCESS testing materials:

Please see the following communication from the Office of Student Assessment regarding the arrival of ACCESS materials:

WIDA ACCESS is Indiana's annual assessment of English language proficiency and is administered to English Learners.

Test Window

- The WIDA ACCESS testing window is January 11 – February 26, 2016.

Test Materials

- This [list](#) and attached document display school corporations that will receive test materials today.
- For all other locations, UPS will attempt to deliver materials on January 4.
- If the site is closed on January 4, UPS will attempt to deliver materials on January 5, and again on January 6.

You are welcome to forward this information to appropriate staff.

Window for ordering additional test materials:

The window for ordering additional ACCESS materials opens December 18th. Please refer to the [WIDA AMS User Guides](#) or contact DRC for further assistance.

WIDA ACCESS 2.0 Writing Test Clarification

Grades 1-3: Writing prompts AND responses will be in the students' testing booklets.
Grades 4-5: Writing prompts will be online and students will respond in the booklets.

Important Data Collection Dates

DOE-LM (Language minority) Deadline has been extended until January 15, 2016. [Click here](#) to view the LM layout for notes and guidance on this data submission. Known issues regarding FNA and NES have been resolved. FEP students are also to be included in the LM Collection.

ELME's 12 FAQs of ELL (optional: sing to the tune of 12 Days of Christmas)

Here's a collection of the 12 most common questions from the field:

- **Are there WIDA test questions available?** Yes, to access practice test items, click [here](#), or visit [this page](#) for test demos.
- **What is WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS)?** Here is an [overview](#) of WIDA AMS or visit WIDA's [FAQ](#).
- **For which tests do my staff or I need certification?** You will need certification for ACCESS 2.0 online, while Kindergarten and Alternative ACCESS certifications remain valid in 2015-2016. Refer to the [WIDA Assessment and Accountability](#) guidance and visit [wida.us](#) for links to training checklists
- **Do we have to administer ACCESS 2.0 online?** Yes, all ACCESS 2.0 tests will be given online unless you seek approval in advance from the DOE.
- **How do I add new students to take ACCESS 2.0?** You will need to add the new student via WIDA AMS. For assistance, contact DRC and see the [WIDA AMS User Guides](#) in Learning Connection.
- **How will I know what Tier to assign writing in grades 1-5?** The students will automatically be sorted after the online portion of the test. Grades 1-3 will have writing booklets with the prompts and responses while grades 4 and 5 will have prompts on the computer and respond in the booklets.
- **How can we buy headsets for the speaking test?** You can use state and local funds to purchase headsets. See WIDA's list of specifications [here](#).
- **My student tested out of EL services. Should the HLS reflect this?** No, the student's native language does not change when he or she becomes FEP.
- **Is there a quiz for certification for ACCESS 2.0?** No, but completing the training checklist on the WIDA website will update your training certificate.
- **Do I resubmit the TL to order more materials?** No, please order test materials via WIDA AMS. Contact DRC for assistance and refer to the [WIDA AMS User Guides](#).
- **I have 5s who are struggling; can they be ELs again?** Reentering EL services cannot be a catch-all. Dig deeper to see if it is a language issue or content deficiency. Ensure you are providing the same level of supports and interventions to former LEP students as you would any other student that is struggling.
- **What if the student took WIDA elsewhere but answered English on our HLS?** Be sure to explain the meaning of the HLS and history of scores to parents to gather the most accurate information on the student. The Indiana HLS should be the final determining factor for EL identification.