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Off Grade Screening

Can we screen students one grade below like WIDA suggests?

No. In Washington all students must screen on grade level. Only students enrolled in kindergarten should take the Kindergarten Screener. All other students should take the grade-level Online Screener for the grade they are enrolled in.

When TK students begin screening in May, they should use the Kindergarten Screener.

WIDA Secure Portal

What is on the WIDA Secure Portal?

The WIDA Secure Portal houses the TA training courses for the WIDA Screener and other assessments from WIDA. WIDA also offers webinars throughout the year about specific components of the testing cycle. These are available under the Webinars tab on the Secure Portal.

Professional learning courses can be found under the eLearning section of the secure portal. In addition, the Download Library has various useful resources, include resources for Technology Coordinators.

Where do I find the Test Administration Manual (TAM)?

The TAM is in the Resources section of the Kindergarten Screener and Online Screener training courses along with other documents that may support Screener test administration.



How do I get access to the WIDA Secure Portal?

The District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) in each district can create accounts and assign permissions for individuals in the district. You can also contact customer service at WIDA (help@wida.us) to have a basic account with access to eLearning set up. To access the screener training, your account must be given permissions in the Secure Portal.

How do I assign permissions to the screener training?

If you are the DAC click on the "Manage" button on the right side of the screen, then select "Manage Users" and search for the account you want to add permissions to.

How do I assign another person to have DAC privileges in the Secure Portal?

The DAC has the highest permission levels in the district. If a second person should have the same permissions as the DAC, the DAC can email ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us with the request. OSPI will make the adjustment.

Training

What trainings do I need to complete?

Test Administrators need to complete test security training which is the same as the training for other state assessments. TAs must also complete training for the grade level or grade band they will be administering and scoring. The training options include:

Test Administrators

Test administrators must complete any of the following trainings for the grade levels they will be testing and pass the associated quizzes with a score of 80 percent or higher.

For K screener – Take the K screener training including both writing and speaking scoring training.

For Grades 1-5:

Administration Only:

- WIDA Screener Online: Administration

Administration & Scoring:

- WIDA Screener Online: Administration
- Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener
- Writing for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener.

For Grades 6-12

Administration Only:

- WIDA Screener Online: Administration

Administration & Scoring:

- WIDA Screener Online: Administration
- Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener
- Writing for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener

In addition, TAs may wish to review the following modules to better understand the processes and systems around testing.

- Training Overview
- Accessibility Overview
- Test Scheduling
- Test Practice and Test Tickets
- Administering the Test
- After Testing

District Assessment Coordinators: WIDA recommends the following trainings for DACs.

- Training Overview
- Ordering Materials
- Managing Test Materials
- Additional Materials Orders
- Accessibility Overview
- Assigning Accommodations
- Test Scheduling
- Test Practice and Test Tickets
- Administering the Test
- Monitoring Test Progress
- After Testing
- Data Validation

How do I access the test administrator training?

The trainings are located on the WIDA Secure Portal under the Assessment Training tab. If you do not see this section available in your view, please contact your DAC to update your permissions in the portal.

Where do I get materials to train my staff on the screener?

The WIDA system requires that all Test Administrators complete training on the WIDA Secure Portal. There are no training materials outside of the secure portal that are used for test administration training. However, your district may have assessment training that around test security or other aspects of testing that is required locally.

When can I do the training?

The screener trainings are asynchronous trainings that can be done in the WIDA Secure Portal at any time.

How long does the training take?

The training varies in duration depending on several factors. For those who have completed training before, it may take 20 minutes, for those that are new to the content of the training, it may take significantly longer.

WIDA AMS (DRC)

What is WIDA AMS and how is it different from the WIDA Secure Portal?

WIDA AMS is the testing platform for WIDA. This is where students take the online test. It is also where TAs input scores for the locally scored portions of the test and retrieve testing results..

How do I upload students to WIDA AMS?

Students can be uploaded by individuals with school or district coordinator permissions in WIDA AMS. Under "Student Management" choose "Manage Students" and then either add a single user or upload a file to add multiple students. There is a "Student Management" FAQ on the [ELP Annual Assessment page](#).

How do I get a temporary ID for students who do not yet have an SSID?

The temporary ID process is not being used for the WIDA system. Districts can add a student for screening with a district identification number. When the student is assigned an SSID, the district can update the record in WIDA AMS to reflect the student's SSID number.

How do we find out about the secure browser or other technology requirements for WIDA testing?

DRC has a Technology Coordinator permissions level. This permissions level is also used in communications from DRC to districts about technology updates. If you do not have anyone from your district assigned to the Technology Coordinator role in WIDA AMS, identifying someone for this role would be beneficial. Please note that the DAC cannot also be the Technology Coordinator as one role seems to cancel out the permissions for the other.

There are also materials in the WIDA Secure Portal for Technology Coordinators (Download Library).

How do I get access to administer or score the WIDA Screener?

DACS will need to enable testing and scoring in WIDA AMS for those who complete training in the WIDA Secure Portal. DACs can get a list of completed training from the WIDA Secure Portal and then enable testing and scoring permissions in WIDA AMS as appropriate.

How do I test a student if the school is not showing up in DRC?

For the screener, you can test a student in your district in any school. You will need to move their record to the correct school once that school is there. If your district has a Special Situations school, this school can be used to test kids who are not yet assigned to a school or whose school is not yet populating in DRC.

Please notify ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us if your school is not in DRC's system.

Scoring Speaking tests with 0:00

When I was scoring, the speaking items they showed up as 0:00. How do I access those to score them?

The WIDA Screener requires that something be recorded for each speaking item. When you are scoring Speaking, the first audio file should activate and show the length of the recording in seconds. The other audio files will be disabled with a length of 0:00 seconds until the first audio file is scored. If all files show a length of 0:00, this is a sign of an unreliable internet connection, and the responses did not fully buffer into your individual scoring session. Exit out of the scoring tab without saving and wait for several minutes and then try again when the responses show available to score. If students' recordings are longer, the system will sometimes have difficulty buffering the responses and give you 0:00 instead of the actual recording. Giving the system a little more time should fix this problem.

Students Experiencing Technical Difficulties

What do I do if my students are experiencing technical difficulties with the test?

If you experience technical difficulties during testing, pause the test and contact OSPI or DRC. If your student has an interruption during the speaking test, pause the test without stopping the recording. Because the Screener is a single ticket log in, no one domain can be taken again in isolation.

If you have any questions about a student retaking a Screener please email the ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us account with an explanation of the situation you experienced and the SSID of the test to be reset or re-opened.

If you encounter any technical difficulties with WIDA AMS or DRC INSIGHT, please call DRC Customer Service at 855-787-9615 or wida@datarecognitioncorp.com

Unlocking WIDA Screener Scoring

Our TA made a mistake in scoring. How do we unlock the scoring so we can fix it?

All WIDA screener tests require some level of local scoring. OSPI will not approve requests for re-opening student tests due to a TA's desire to re-score a domain or concern that the initial scores were too low or too high.

If you have concerns that a student's skills may not be represented in the test scores, please consider other local assessment options that can help you determine the best placement for students and contact the Bilingual Education Office for resources and support in how to best determine appropriate services.

If you have any questions about re-opening Screener Scoring for Writing or Speaking, please email the ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us account with an explanation of the situation you experienced and the SSID of the test to be rescored.

Paper Materials

How do districts order paper materials for Kindergarten Screening?

The WIDA Store has developed a new process for ordering materials for Kindergarten Screener. Only district level staff can order materials for WIDA Kindergarten Screener. The new process is outlined below.

- Districts will place their order directly online through the [WIDA Store](#).
 - Kindergarten Screener items are located under the MODEL/Screener Assessment heading in the green Shop Products bar
- Answer "no" to the tax exempt question.
- Select "Purchase Order" as their payment method at checkout and submit the order. This is essentially a quote. Districts will not be sending a PO.
- Districts will receive an order confirmation email.
- Districts must forward the order confirmation email to ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us for approval.
- The state will forward the order confirmation to the WIDA Store upon approval. OSPI will review orders on Tuesdays each week through August and September and then monthly through June.
- The WIDA store will process the order and send the invoice to OSPI.

Where can I get the grade 1-3 writing booklet?

OSPI printed grade 1-3 writing booklets for screening for each district that screened an average of more than one student per grade per year in 2017-2019. These booklets should arrive in district on August 1. Districts will need to print these booklets from the WIDA Secure Portal if materials from OSPI are insufficient to meet the need. Materials are found in the Resources portion of the training for grade 1 and grade 2-3.

How do I get a paper screener test for my student with a paper test accommodation?

Please contact OSPI directly at ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us to order a paper Screener test for a student in grades 1–12.

Who to Test?

Do we screen students who were provisionally identified in the 2020-21 school year?

Students who remain provisionally identified as English learners will need to be screened to determine their eligibility for ELD services when they return to school this fall. If a student with provisional EL status is remaining in a remote instructional model this fall, continue to serve the student as an English learner and devise a plan to identify the student's eligibility for services.

Can we accept WIDA scores from other states?

If a student has not been enrolled in a Washington State public school in the past 12 months and meets the identification criteria on the home language survey, the student must take the WIDA Screener to determine eligibility for ELD services. The exception to this rule is a student who enrolls in a Washington State public school with WIDA ACCESS scores. **WIDA ACCESS scores from out-of-state can be used in lieu of screening under the following conditions:**

- If a student met the current Washington State WIDA Exit Criteria at any point on the annual WIDA ACCESS, then the student is ineligible for ELD services.
- If a student has WIDA ACCESS scores from within the previous 12 months and did not meet the Washington State Exit Criteria, the student is eligible for services.
- If the student has not taken the WIDA ACCESS in the last 12 months and has not met the current exit criteria based on a previous ACCESS score, then the student must be screened using the WIDA Screener. Washington State does not accept WIDA Screener scores from out of state.

All WIDA scores must reflect the requirements for the grade level the student was enrolled in when the student completed the test. Regardless of how eligibility is determined, the student must be identified for services within 10 school days of attending a Washington public school. If out-of-state scores are not available within 10 days, the school will need to administer a WIDA screener assessment to determine eligibility.

If a student who previously transitioned (exited) from the TBIP program returns to Washington after having lived outside the United States in a non-English-speaking country for twelve or more months, the district can administer the WIDA Screener to determine if there has been a loss of English language proficiency. The student can re-qualify for TBIP services based on the new placement test results.

Is there a screener for our TK students?

Students who may be eligible for English language development (ELD) services are required to be screened and be provided with those services, including students in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) programs. However, our state-approved English language proficiency assessment, the WIDA Kindergarten Screener and WIDA Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs assessment have not been validated for children under 5, and therefore, are not appropriate for screening TK students until they are closer to the typical age of kindergarten students.

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the following procedure should be used for screening TK students:

- 1) **Home Language Survey** – Require the Home Language Survey for all TK students and use the information from questions 2 and 3 to determine possible eligibility.
- 2) **Provisional Qualification** – Record all TK students who are possibly eligible based on the Home Language Survey as provisionally-qualified English learners without a screener score, using their date of enrollment as their Initial Placement Test Date.
- 3) **Spring WIDA Screening** – Beginning May 1st, all TK students must be given the WIDA Kindergarten Screener prior to the end of their time in TK, following the guidance for early kindergarten screening (listening and speaking only). This screening will fulfill the requirement for annual English language proficiency assessment and will determine their eligibility for ELD services the following school year upon entering kindergarten.

Provisionally qualified TK students will be eligible for ELD services and will be able to be claimed on the P-223 count for Transitional Bilingual Instruction Programs (TBIP) and Title III funding. Best practice for early multilingual learners is to provide inclusive services through co-teaching or through professional development for TK educators to integrate ELD supports and strategies into the early learning environment. Pull-out services are not best practice and are discouraged. For more information on early learning strategies for multilingual learners, see the [WIDA Early Years Can Do Descriptors](#) and [WIDA Focus Bulletin: Promoting Equity for Young Multilingual Children and Their Families](#).

Do we test all kindergarten students on the screener?

No. Only students whose response to questions 2 or 3 on the Home Language Survey includes a language other than English are eligible to take the screener.

Eligibility Criteria

What are the scores a student must achieve to be considered ineligible for ELD services?

Kindergarten students (prior to January 1) should test only on Listening and Speaking. They require a 5 or higher in each domain to be ineligible for program. After January 1 kindergarten students must complete all four domains and achieve an overall score of 4.5 **and** a minimum of a 4 in each domain (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).

Students in grade 1 must achieve an overall score of 4.5 **and** a minimum of a 4 in each domain (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).

Students in grades 2-12 must achieve an overall score of 5 **and** a minimum of a 4 in each domain to be determined ineligible for services.

CEDARS

How do we get scores into CEDARS?

Similar to previous years, districts will input scores from the screener into CEDARS via their Student Information System.

How do I report kindergarten students who are only screening on Listening and speaking?

With the change in policy for Kindergarten screening comes a change to how results are reported for these students. The new policy states that kindergarten students entering school before December 31 will test only on the Listening and Speaking domains. There are four relevant elements in reporting these screener scores in CEDARS. Please report results as described below:

J18 Placement Test Code

Select: 10 WIDA Screener (in Washington Public Schools)

J20: Placement Test Score

Each of the scored domains receive a score between 1 and 6. For kindergarten students who do not test on reading and writing, enter a zero (0). Report these domain scores as a 4-digit number in the following order: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing

Example:

WIDA Domain Scores				J20 – Placement Score
Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing	3020
3	0	2	0	

J21– Placement Status & Appendix N – English Learners Placement Status

As with all WIDA Screener assessments, only Status 5 or 6 should be used in Element J21. Use Status 5 to indicate that a student tested and qualified for ELD services or Status 6 to indicate a student tested but did not qualify for ELD services.

	Status 0	Status 1	Status 2	Status 3	Status 4	Status 5	Status 6
WIDA Screener	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Tested and Qualified	Tested but did not Qualify

J23 – Overall Placement Test Score

Element J23 will collect the **Oral Language** composite score that kindergarten students earn when testing prior to December 31.

Testing Window

What is the testing window for screener this year?

Students must be identified within 10 days of enrolling and attending school. Summer testing prior to the onset of the school year does not require 10 days from enrollment. Once students begin attending school, they must be identified for program within 10 days.

The screener is open from August 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Kindergarten Screening

Can we screen kindergarten students in speaking and listening only?

Yes. Kindergarten students should be tested only in Listening and Speaking until December 31 of their kindergarten year. From January 1 all kindergarten students who screen must complete all four domains.

Where is the Score Calculator for Kindergarten Screener?

The calculator can be found here: <https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/screener/kindergarten/calculator>

How do I input Kindergarten Screener Scores in WIDA AMS?

The Kindergarten Screener is not administered through WIDA AMS, so there is no way to include the kindergarten screener scores in that platform.

How many Kindergarten students can we test together?

The Kindergarten Screener is administered individually, so there should be only one student testing at a time with each test administrator.

Provisional Status

What do I do for students who have been provisional now that provisional status is going away?

Provisional status was used as an emergency option when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. For the 2022 school year this option will be removed for all students except those in transitional kindergarten. Students who have been provisionally identified for ELD status will need to complete screening to determine program eligibility.

How can I get families who are hesitant to bring their children in for screening?

It can be difficult to convince families who have been cautious about sending their children to school that completing the screening process is essential to getting their student all the services they need. OSPI reached out to some district who have had success in bringing their kids in for testing. Below of some of the responses they indicated.

1. For potentially eligible or provisionally identified students who wish to enroll in a virtual academy, completing the screener is a step in the enrollment process. They can enroll in their local neighborhood school and complete the screener once they are on campus, but for the virtual schools they must complete screening as a part of the process.
2. Talk with parents (with an interpreter) about the following:
 - a. additional supports their student can receive through the ELD program.
 - b. what a safe testing environment would look like. For example, do they need the Test Administrator to be masked? Double masked? Do they want an environment that is not at a school? Do they want a room that is disinfected?
 - c. Is there an alternate location that is amenable to both?
 - d. Do they need an outside space for testing?
 - e. Do they need a female/male test administrator?
 - f. Do they need transportation to the testing site?

End Domain Incomplete

For whom is the End Domain Incomplete option intended?

The End Domain Incomplete process is an option intended only for students who cannot engage with the Screener because of a disability. Using this process should be reserved for students who cannot access/engage with the assessment.

How do I screen students with very limited English who get frustrated with the test? Can I use the End Domain Incomplete for these students?

The End Domain Incomplete process is not intended to be used for students who have lower levels of English proficiency. If students are getting frustrated, some of the following options might be useful.

- Try taking a short stretch break with the student and talk with the student about themselves.
- Bring in an interpreter to talk with the student and help them feel more comfortable. The interpreter can also translate test directions
- Have a snack.
- Pause the test and try again at another time or different day.

Because of the way the screener is connected to a student's civil rights and program eligibility, due diligence would require some extra effort to complete testing.