English Language Proficiency Assessments Year at a Glance 2025 – 26 School Year

Overview

The 2025-26 School Year will feature several notable changes in both test materials and test administration for English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments in Washington. This publication provides a brief overview of the changes to assist with planning.

Test Administration Updates for the 2025-26 School Year

The ELP Assessment Office Hour will return on August 4, 2025 with an updated Zoom link and updated Key Topics schedule. Additionally, the ELP Assessment Newsletter will resume on August 4, 2025.

ELP guidance for Washington will be updated for the 2025-2026 School Year and additional resources for test administration will be available. In response to district requests, there will be additional information in assigning accommodations and maintaining test security. Additional resources will be offered to support key test administration tasks.

Updates about the nightly upload between CEDARS and DRC and paper reporting will be available later in the summer.

WIDA Changes for the 2025-26 School Year

WIDA will be releasing several changes in test materials and test technology for the 2025-26 School Year. These include updated tests, updated trainings, updated resources, and changes to technology.

WIDA Test Material Changes for 2025-26

From the revised WIDA ACCESS to updated training courses, changes to expect with WIDA test materials in the 2025-26 School Year include:

Name Changes

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs has been renamed WIDA ACCESS with a number of behind-the-scenes changes:

- WIDA ACCESS Online
- WIDA ACCESS Paper
- WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten

Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

New Assessment

The WIDA Alternate Screener will be released on July 1. More information can be found here: WIDA Alternate Screener Is Coming in 2025-26. Washington has released guidance on the use of this screening tool, available on the OSPI ELP Assessments website: English Language Proficiency Screeners.

Revised Assessments

Revised WIDA ACCESS Online, WIDA ACCESS Paper, and WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten aligned to the 2020 WIDA Standards will be operational in 2025-26. More information can be found here:

- Redesigned Kindergarten ACCESS Is Coming in 2025-26
- Revising ACCESS for ELLs Is Coming in 2025-26

These revisions necessitate recertification for all test administrators (TAs). Therefore, OSPI will not release a refresher course for 2025-26.

Additionally, score reports will be available in May 2026, but standard setting will not occur until Summer 2026. More information will come later.

Rubric Changes

New Scoring Rubrics for WIDA ACCESS have been released in the Speaking and Writing domains in K-12.

Training Course Changes

With the new Scoring Rubrics, there are new training courses for WIDA ACCESS:

- Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper
- Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring ACCESS Paper
- Updated WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten course

Accommodations Changes

New accommodations for WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten include Low Vision (LV) that comes with a TA script.

Additionally, WIDA ACCESS Online will add American Sign Language videos to the Translated TA Script options for Grades 1-12. These can be used to deliver the Interpreter Signs Directions in ASL (SD) accommodation for ACCESS Online.

WIDA Technology Changes for 2025-26

A variety of technology changes will be seen in WIDA AMS for the 2025-26 School Year.

Chromebook Changes

There is a new application for DRC INSIGHT that must be installed by July 31, 2025. More information can be found in DRC's Tech Bulletin here: [Tech Bulletin: New ChromeOS Progressive Web Application (PWA) Required for DRC INSIGHT](#).

Streaming Audio

Instead of using CDs for the WIDA ACCESS Paper, TAs can now stream Listening and Speaking test audio in WIDA AMS. CDs will still be shipped to districts.

WIDA AMS Changes

WIDA will continue to make improvements to WIDA AMS, including:

- A new export to identify students not included in test registration.
- Removal of the accommodation domain filter in Student Management.

Key Dates for the 2025-26 School Year

Rollover to the 2025-2026 School Year begins on July 1, 2025. Additional important dates will be provided at the end of summer.

WIDA Webinar Schedule for the 2025-26 School Year

WIDA has released their webinar schedule for the 2025-26 School Year, starting in July 2025 and continuing through May 2026. Webinars can be accessed here on the WIDA Secure Portal with user access: [LEA Webinars.](#)

WIDA Webinar Schedule for the 2025-26 School Year

Date	Title
July 15, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 PM CDT	[WIDA Alternate Screener](#)
August 5, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 PM CDT	[WIDA Screener Online and Paper](#)
September 2, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 PM CDT	[Welcome Back: What's New in 2025 - 2026?](#)
September 9, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 PM CDT	[WIDA ACCESS for New Test Administrators](#)
September 11, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 PM CDT	[WIDA ACCESS for New District Test Coordinators](#)