




NH ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window
Now Open Through June 11, 2021.

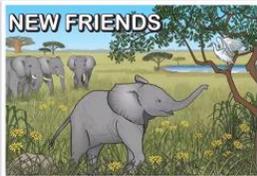
All active English learners in New Hampshire are required to test, including any new student who enrolls on or before May 1, 2021. It is the expectation of the DOE that districts will do communicate the importance of annual testing with families, as well as the district’s plan for mitigating risk during in-person testing.

Guidance

- [Assessment Best Practices During COVID](#)
- [Maintaining Student Data During COVID](#)



Other WIDA Updates:



The new WIDA Kindergarten Screener will be released on March 30, 2021. The test training and materials will be available through the WIDA Secure Portal. Districts will need to download and print the test materials.

At the February WIDA Quarterly meeting for State Educational Agencies, Mark Chapman, Director of Test Development at WIDA, talked through the field testing done by his team during development of the new K Screener. Part of the field test included an analysis of the potential impact on student outcomes when a grayscale vs. color version of the test was administered. The team found that the color of the test had no impact on student performance and outcomes.

The State EL Advisory Committee (SELAC) will use the information published by the test development team at WIDA to establish the qualifying criteria for the new Kindergarten Screener. Please look for updates at the end of March.

SAVE THE DATE: 2 LIVE WIDA Webinar Trainings for New Kindergarten Screener will be offered in spring

April 19, 2021
3:00-5:00 pm



May 12, 2021
8:30-10:30 am

This month's Frequently Asked Questions:



Should we plan to push off testing with the hope that the new Administration at the US DOE will approve another assessment waiver?

The DOE is aware of the letters circulating from multiple national professional organizations advocating on both sides of the issue related to waivers for mandated assessments. A change to the current requirements for annual assessments under ESSA law is not expected. It is the expectation of the DOE that districts will create a plan for assessing all English learners during the 2021 testing window. Districts are also required to communicate the importance of testing with families and their plans for mitigating risk during testing in a language parents can understand.

The US DOE did extend flexibility to states for specific assessment and accountability requirements during the 2019-20 school year. The waiver NH received last year continues to have implications on accountability for this year. To learn more about NH's Accountability Addendum to our State ESSA compliance plan, please visit the NH DOE > [ESSA webpage](#) and check back often for related updates.

If students are required to wear masks during testing will the quality of the audio response file be compromised?

No. WIDA ran trials this fall to test the quality of audio files generated by students while wearing a mask and found that masks **did not** impact the quality of the test file.

It is critical that Test Administrators create/secure testing environments that make students feel comfortable (e.g., private space or privacy screens, void of distractions, etc.). It is more likely that the quality of an audio file is compromised when students are distracted or feel embarrassed in crowded classrooms and as a result offer limited responses to rush through the test or responses in a low voice. **A secure and appropriate testing environment makes a big difference!**

Formal screening must be completed for all students who obtained a provisional score of 2.0 or above on the WIDA Remote Screener regardless of whether or not they were identified. The district **MUST** ensure that students who are given a provisional status assignment (identified as EL or non-EL) be tracked by the school district; so that once school resumes, they can be screened according to the full procedure.

Please refer to the [NH DOE Provisional Guidance for Remote Screening of ELs](#).

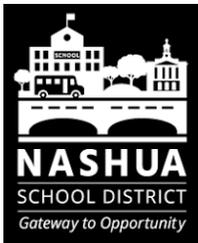
If a student was provisionally identified with the WIDA Remote Screener do we need to re-screen the student before administering the ACCESS test?



In January, the State EL Advisory Committee made final revision recommendations to the first section of the DOE EL Program Guidebook on “Identification and Placement of ELs.” The revisions are being finalized and are on schedule to be released at the end of February.

In February, SELAC will establish a qualifying score for students taking the new WIDA Kindergarten Screener and talk about a plan to roll out the new WIDA 2020 Standards.

RESOURCES & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD



The Nashua School District in partnership with the United Way of Greater Nashua and through funding made available by the NH DOE & the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery created a series of multilingual videos to support parents with remote learning.

[A link to the list of resources](#) is available in our shared folder and available to all NH EL educators.



US Department of
Education and Title III

Program Monitoring: Title III program monitoring will begin shortly. It has recently been decided that all monitoring will happen via desk monitoring, since in-person monitoring is not possible due to circumstances created by COVID-19.

To determine which districts will be monitored risk assessments are completed for each Title III grant. The details of the risk assessment were shared in last month’s newsletter. **Risk assessments will be complete by February 19, 2021.** Copies of the completed risk assessments will be sent to all Title III grantees, regardless of whether monitoring is required.

T3 Updates

Title III Allocations: The DOE received notice of preliminary allocations for the 2021-22 Title III grant. Overall, the allocation has increased by 1.27%. Our team is working on a statewide preliminary allocations report. Please look for updates in next month’s newsletter.

Any district serving English learners is eligible to receive Title III funds. In 2020-21 the per pupil allocation was approximately \$175. A \$10,000 minimum is required for a district to qualify as a single entity. This means a district would need 56 EL students to qualify as a single sub-grantee. If your district has between 1-55 EL students, your students are still eligible to receive that funding through a multi-district consortium. If you would like more information, please contact Wendy Perron.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Date	Time	Title
2/16/2021	3:30-4:30	Low-Incidence Communities of Practice (CoP) Monthly Meeting Meeting link
NH DOE 		
2/17/2021	3:30-5:00	Kick-off to 3-part series: "Challenges in Special Education for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Students." Review Agenda Registration Link
NH DOE 		
2/18/2021	3:30-4:45	Statewide EL Educators Community of Practice (CoP) Monthly Convene Review Agenda Meeting Link
NH DOE 		
2/22/21 & 3/8/2021	3:30-4:30	DOE EL & Title III Open Office Hour: Drop-in anytime during the set hour to ask a question using this link . There is no set agenda, just a chance to offer technical assistance to any NH school, district or educator. Sessions held every other Monday.
NH DOE 		
Now-8/31/21	Self-paced	7 e-Workshops through WIDA Secure Portal: (1) WIDA Writing Rubric; (2) Doing & Talking STEM; (3) Classroom Teachers: Engaging Multilingual Learners; (4) Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics; and (5) Leading for Equity: Classroom Walkthroughs; (6) 2020 ELD Standards Framework and (7) School Improvement Planning for Multilingual Learners
 WIDA		
		 2 additional eWorkshops available beginning 2/15!
		Open to all NH Educators. To obtain a WIDA Secure Portal account, teachers must contact WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us or (866) 276-7735

If you have any questions or would like to request technical assistance, please contact:

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