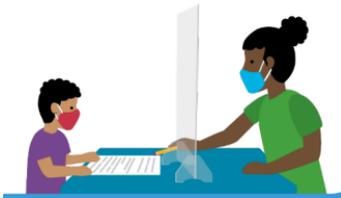




NH ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window Now Open Through June 11, 2021.



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 communicate the importance of annual testing with families, as well as the district’s plan for mitigating risk during in-person testing.

At the end of March, 46% of ELs had completed ACCESS testing.

Other WIDA Updates:

The new WIDA Kindergarten Screener is now available. The test training and materials are now up in the WIDA Secure Portal for any Test Administrator who currently has K-WAPT or WIDA Screener permissions.

Need a Kindergarten Screener Kit?

If you are a mid- or low-incidence district and you would like to request a WIDA Kindergarten Screener Kit for your district or school, [please complete this form](#). The NH DOE has limited funding to purchase kits on a first come, first serve basis.



WIDA Facilitated Training for Kindergarten Screener Test Administrators:

The DOE is hosting two WIDA facilitated trainings for EL educators assigned as Test Administrators of the new Kindergarten Screener. Please [use this link to sign up for one of the sessions](#)—space is limited.



Session I
April 19th
3:00-5:00

Session II
May 12th
8:30-10:30

Where can I find information about accommodations for English learners for the NH SAS testing?



The New Hampshire Department of Education [Assessment Policy and Procedures Manual](#) includes guidance regarding procedures and policies pertaining to federal and statewide assessments in NH. Guidance on accessibility and accommodations for EL students begins on page 9.

If we have an EL student who has just arrived to the US, do we have to fill out a form for the first-year newcomer exemption?

No, the NH DOE, no longer requires schools to submit a special exemption form for English learners that qualify for the newcomer exemption. First year status is identified in the i4see system; therefore, a special exemption form is not required. Any student who qualifies is identified in the school's assessment roster. Please check in with your school's test coordinator to verify exemptions.

Students enrolled in a U.S. school for less than 12 months and identified as active English Learners, based on WIDA Screener, are exempt for one administration of the reading or language arts assessment; however, the one year reporting exemption applies to all state testing (i.e., EL newcomers are required to take the mathematics portion of the statewide assessments, but their scores will not be included for accountability purposes).



In April, the State EL Advisory Committee (SELAC) will consider the possibility of adjusting the annual ACCESS testing window in NH. The NH DOE Assessment & Accountability Team initiated the conversation as part of a regular assessment review process. The change is being considered to bring the ACCESS testing window more in line with other statewide spring assessments.

The new proposed window would begin annually on March 1st and remain open through the third week in April—right up until April school vacation week in NH. The shift would allow for an additional week of testing (an 8-week testing window vs. 7-week testing window), but it would also push out the date schools would receive student score reports. If the change is adopted, schools would receive student score reports in Mid-June vs. Mid-May.

Please [use this link to share your input](#) as the NH DOE and the State EL Advisory Committee considers this adjustment. **The survey will remain open until April 16th**. All comments and survey responses will be shared with SELAC and considered by the DOE team before any decisions are made.

RESOURCES & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD



Ledge Street School in Nashua is kicking off a professional development series focused on culturally responsive teaching and learning. The PD sessions are being facilitated by [Ramapo for Children](#), an organization that offers a range of direct services for children and families, as well as a professional development workshops and coaching. Check out the Ramapo website to learn more.



US Department of
Education and Title III

T3 Updates

Reminder—Funds Drawdown: There is less than 4 months of spending left on the 2019-20 Title III grants. **Please work to spend down your grants over the next few months.** If any of your activities have changed due to COVID-19 restrictions, please reach out to Wendy Perron to revise your grant.

2021-2022 Title III Funding: 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.

CHANGES to 2019-20 Title III, Immigrant Children & Youth Grant: In last month's newsletter, the DOE announced the districts that qualified for the 2019-20 Immigrant Children & Youth grant; however, there was an error in that reporting. The data collection method the DOE uses to calculate immigrant children and youth enrollment has recently changed. In the past, districts would self-report the number of newly enrolled immigrant children and youth. Now, that information is collected when a district requests a SASID for a new student. The change in the data collection method will allow for more accurate and consistent reporting.

In the transition to the new data collection method, the DOE data team uncovered some errors. This means the calculations for the 2019-20 grant awards need to be redone. Districts who have been affected will be notified directly. Please look for an announcement in next month's newsletter with updated information about this year's sub-recipients.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Date	Time	Title
4/13/21	3:30-5:00	Session 3 of 3-part series on “Challenges in Special Education for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Students.” Review Agenda Registration Link
		
4/15/2021	3:30-4:30	Statewide EL Educators Community of Practice (CoP) Monthly Convene Meeting Link
		
4/20/2021	3:30-5:00	Low-Incidence Communities of Practice (CoP) Monthly Meeting Meeting link
		
4/19/21 & 5/12/21	Live Webinar	Live Webinar w/ WIDA Trainer: Kindergarten Screener
		<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>April 19th from 3:00-5:00</p> <p>May 12th from 8:30-10:30</p> <p>*Please use this link to register for one of the sessions* (Register Early--participant limits on each session)</p> </div>
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
		<p>*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*</p>

Other Announcements:



State Seal of Biliteracy Committee has been hard at work—

NH is on the [National Map!](#)

Check out the [new NH State Seal website](#)

Share information about this award
with your school or district!

Please check out the resources available on the website and look for a
press release very soon.

April is ...

MA | National Bilingual/
Multilingual Learner
Advocacy Month

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) has created a toolkit of resources on multilingualism, languages and culture, distance learning and student success and family engagement.

DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT



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



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