



World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment
Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1025 West Johnson Street, MD #23
Madison, WI 53706

December 16, 2015

Dear Colleagues;

Last week marked the successful launch of the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 online summative assessment. We at WIDA believe this is an engaging assessment that allows ELLs to show what they can do specific to school-based English language proficiency. Within the next six months, WIDA will be delivering testing to about 1.7 million students within the areas of 38 state education agencies, most of whom will be using the online platform.

Many of you, teachers, administrators, state level professionals, and more, have contributed in a myriad of ways to bring us all to this point. Your commitment to training and understanding both the paper/pencil and the online assessments will serve your students well, and the people who work in the WIDA office at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), and Data Recognition Company (DRC) recognize these efforts and want to thank you on behalf of all of the WIDA community.

You should know that should any complications arise during the delivery phase of the testing, we all stand ready to address issues with all of the resources at our disposal. Our latest data shows that over 65,000 test sessions have been completed (1 session equals 1 domain test) and over 6,000 students have completed the entire test. Both WIDA and DRC have client service centers staffed and trained to respond to your questions. The contact information for these centers is at the bottom of this page.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen the components of the system that we provide, including standards, research, testing, and professional learning with your continuing contributions. There are also many ways to connect with each other through, among others, the lesson plan share space on the WIDA website, attending WIDA professional learning opportunities, and the WIDA National Conference on Research and Practice in Language Learning, to be held next in Philadelphia, PA, on October 12–15, 2016.

Thank you for all that you do for English language Learners!

Sincerely,

Tim Boals, Ph.D.

WIDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us or call 866-276-7735
DRC Support Team WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or call 855-787-9615