Missouri ELL Screening Process

2016-2017

Version 2

Contents

Missouri Update on ELL Screening Process

As a part of federal requirements, districts are required to identify incoming students who qualify as English language learners (ELLs). Since the 2010-2011 academic year, Missouri districts have used the paper based W-APT screening assessment provided by WIDA.

With the move to online English proficiency testing, WIDA has been working on an updated Online Screener – to replace the W-APT for grades 1-12.

Implementation Schedule		
	2016-2017	2017-2018
W-APT	Beginning November 4, for grades 1-12 – Optional to use during the 16-17 academic year.	No longer available for grades 1-12. Still used for Kindergarten.
Online Screener	Soft Launch: For grades 1-12 – Optional to use during the 16-17 academic year.	Becomes required screener for students in grades 1-12.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, the W-APT will remain the required screening assessment. Beginning November 4, districts have the option of which screening assessment they would like to use.

When to Screen

Upon enrollment, Missouri LEAs are required to give a home language survey or questions on an enrollment form. The questions are:

A) Is the student's native tongue a language other than English?
B) Is a language other than English spoken in the student's home or environment?

If the answer to either question is yes, or if an LEA feels that a child might have an English language learning need due to unreported exposure to another language, the LEA is required to screen the child for ELL services.

LEAs have 30 calendar days from the beginning of the school year to administer the screening assessment. If a student moves in after the beginning of the school year, the LEA has 10 school days upon enrollment to administer the screening assessment. LEAs may also choose to administer the W-APT during the Kindergarten roundup. If your LEA receives a new student from another LEA or state that is part of the consortium AND the student has a W-APT or ACCESS for ELLs score report, **they will not need to be re-screened**. Simply add their previous W-APT or ACCESS score report to the student cumulative folder.

Missouri LEAs may not provide screening services for private school students. Having access to the WIDA provided screener is paid for by the state and thus may not be used to provide direct services for private school students.

About the W-APT

W-APT test items are written from the model performance indicators of WIDA's five English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards:

- Social & Instructional Language
- Language of Language Arts
- Language of Mathematics
- Language of Science
- Language of Social Studies

Test forms are divided into five grade-level clusters:

- Kindergarten
- Grades 1-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

The W-APT was designed to be used as:

- One piece of criteria to determine eligibility for language support services
- An indicator of a student's language proficiency level (1 through 6) on the WIDA continuum
- An aid to determining appropriate levels and amounts of instructional services

W-APT

W-APT stands for the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test. This assessment tool, known as a "screener," is used by educators to measure the English language proficiency of students who have recently arrived in the U.S. or in a particular LEA. It can help to determine whether or not a child is in need of English language instructional services.

Each form of the test assesses the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

The W-APT is designed to be individually administered and adaptive, meaning that parts of the test may be discontinued as soon as the student reaches his or her performance "ceiling."

Downloading the W-APT

Some WIDA accounts have access to download and print the W-APT. Once you are signed in, go to: https://www.wida.us/User/get-W-APT.aspx to download the W-APT documents. If you cannot access the documents, please contact your district test coordinator or DESE Assessment (573-751-8285 or assessment@dese.mo.gov) to find out who in your district does have access.

Remember that the W-APT is a secure test. Once tests are downloaded and printed, they are to be kept as secure as other state assessments, and are administered following standard procedures.

W-APT Training

Individual test administrators must be trained in its administration and have agreed to maintain the security of test questions. It is **NO LONGER REQUIRED** that districts attend a MELL training to administer the W-APT.

To participate in training, log into the WIDA website (www.wida.us), go to your My Account & Secure Portal page, look under "Screener Test Materials & Training" and click on the button that says W-APT Screener Test.

You are **required to take the following steps**, as outlined on the page, as part of your training:
- Review the applicable Test Administration Manual(s) for Kindergarten W-APT and/or Grades 1-12 W-APT.
- View the applicable W-APT Webinar(s) for Kindergarten W-APT and/or Grades 1-12 W-APT.
- Complete the Speaking Test Module (https://www.wida.us/User/SpeakingModule).
- Take the Speaking Quiz (https://www.wida.us/User/SpeakingTest.aspx) if you have not already done so in a previous year.
- Review the Scored Student Writing Samples (https://www.wida.us/get.aspx?id=163).

Beyond training, the only requirement to give the W-APT is that the test administrator must be a district employee that, at a minimum, meets the requirements of a paraprofessional under Title I. **Substitute teachers may not give the W-APT unless they are under contract with the district**.

W-APT Administration

The W-APT is meant to be administered in an individual setting and therefore cannot be given in groups.

Please use the following chart to determine which form of W-APT should be used. For first semester students, WIDA recommends that students should NOT be screened at a grade level where they have yet to receive instruction.

For First Semester Students												
Grade Level	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test To Be Used	K[1]	K	1-2	1-2	3-5	3-5	3-5	6-8	6-8	6-8	9-12	9-12	9-12
For Second Semester Students												
Grade Level	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test To Be Used	K	1-2	1-2	3-5	3-5	3-5	6-8	6-8	6-8	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12

The W-APT for all grade levels except kindergarten is administered as follows:
- The Speaking test is administered first, followed by the Listening, Reading, and Writing tests.

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[1] Because most 1st semester Kindergarten students cannot read or write you will screen them on the listening and speaking modalities only, using the Kindergarten W-APT. They will then be tested on all four modalities using the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

- All components are adaptive, meaning the component in process is stopped when the test administrator reaches items with more complex material than the student is likely to successfully handle. Instructions for stopping a component are included in the test script.

W-APT Scoring

The W-APT is scored completely by the test administrator. No part of the W-APT is sent away for scoring.

- When scoring the Speaking section of the W-APT test administrators determine whether a student's response approaches, meets, or exceeds expectations based on a given rubric.
- Scoring for the Writing test is also based on a rubric. Scored writing samples are available to help raters get accustomed to using the rubric.
- An answer key on the scoring sheet is provided for the multiple choice Listening and Reading items.
- The W-APT scoring sheet guides test administrators in assigning an overall or composite English language proficiency level for all four components of the test.

The W-APT Score Calculator is a tool to save test administrators the time of manually converting raw scores and calculating the composite proficiency level (CPL) scores. It calculates Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening proficiency scores, along with the CPL score and a grade-adjusted CPL score. Unfortunately, it cannot be applied to Kindergarten scores at this time. Please note that scores are not saved in the calculator. Using the calculator will also generate a basic printable score report.

LEAs should to keep results in the students' cumulative folder. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that LEAs share the results with the parents and teachers of the student. W-APT results should also be kept for monitoring purposes.

The scores from the W-APT are used to determine if a student meets the identification criteria of an ELL.

Eligibility For Services – 1st Semester Kindergarten

Because most first semester Kindergarten students cannot read and/or write, they are given the W-APT in only two modalities (listening and speaking). Based on the NCLB requirement to determine English proficiency based on all four domains, all Kindergarten students that are assessed with the Kindergarten W-APT during their first semester must be assessed with the ACCESS 2.0 during the state testing window.

	The student is **ELIGIBLE** for English Language services if they:	The student is **NOT REQUIRED** to receive English Language services if they:
SCORE	Have a combined score of 28 or lower on listening and speaking	Have a combined score of 29 or higher on listening and speaking
OUTCOME	Student should be identified as LEP_RCV in MOSIS and will take the ACCESS 2.0 assessment.	Student should be identified as LEP_NRC in MOSIS and will take the ACCESS 2.0 assessment so that a determination based on all four modalities can be made.

Eligibility For Services – 2nd Semester Kindergarten/1st Semester 1st Grade

Those students who are either a 2nd semester Kindergarten student or a 1st semester 1st grade student will be screened using the Kindergarten W-APT.

	The student is **ELIGIBLE** for English Language services if they:	The student is **NOT ELIGIBLE** for English Language services if they:
SCORE	• Have a combined score of 28 or lower on listening and speaking **OR** • Have a score of 10 or lower on reading **OR** • Have a score of 11 or lower on writing	• Have a combined score of 29 or higher on listening and speaking **AND** • Have a score of 11 or higher on reading **AND** • Have a score of 12 or higher on writing
OUTCOME	Student should be identified as LEP_RCV or LEP_NRC in MOSIS and will take the ACCESS 2.0 assessment.	Student should be identified as NLP in MOSIS.

Eligibility For Services – 2nd Semester 1st Grade through 12th Grade

	The student is **ELIGIBLE** for English Language services if they:	The student is **NOT ELIGIBLE** for English Language services if they:
SCORE	Have a composite proficiency level score lower than 5.0	Have a composite proficiency level score of 5.0 or higher
OUTCOME	Student should be identified as LEP_RCV or LEP_NRC in MOSIS and will take the ACCESS 2.0 assessment.	Student should be identified as NLP in MOSIS.

For questions about starting English Language services, please contact your local MELL Instructional specialist.

Online Screener

The new WIDA Online Screener offers some advantages over the W-APT including:

- 100% new test content with full color images
- Test content aligned with the WIDA ELD Standards, 2012 Edition
- Test content that corresponds to College and Career Readiness Standards
- Test content with the look and feel of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- Media-delivered Listening and Speaking domain tests
- Group administration options for all domains
- An "escape hatch" testing option for newcomers, with test content that is accessible to students with minimal prior exposure to English
- Headsets with a Microphone are required for testing.

The Online Screener reports out Composite Overall, Literacy and Oral scores at a level from 1-6. No scale scores will be reported.

WIDA Online Screener

Beginning November 4, districts will have the choice of using either the Online Screener or the paper W-APT for the remainder of the 2016-2017 academic year.

The new WIDA Online Screener will serve as an on-demand tool that provides highly reliable ELL identification information within a relatively short test administration. Students may be tested and scores reported within 24 hours in most cases.

As with ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, the WIDA Online Screener will be available through the DRC INSIGHT test platform and test sessions will be set up in WIDA AMS. Users will need relevant permissions within WIDA AMS to set up and administer test sessions and to score students' responses.

Additional information about the online screener can be found at https://www.wida.us/assessment/Screener/screener-online.aspx.

WIDA Online Screener Technology

The technology requirements for the administration and scoring of the WIDA Online Screener are the same as those for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. Complete information on technology requirements for both student devices and the required Testing Site Manager (TSM) can be found here: https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-tech.aspx.

Because of the way the responses are sent, INSIGHT must maintain connectivity to the Internet or the TSM throughout the test. INSIGHT can be used on wireless networks but states and districts will need to be aware of overall Internet usage to ensure that testing is not affected.

The WIDA Screener Online is entirely computer delivered (with the exception of the grades 1–3 writing test). It uses the same technology platform as ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

- Student data is managed using the WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS). This includes generating test tickets pre-test and scoring the test post-administration.
- Each student workstation used in testing must be configured to use a Testing Site Manager (TSM). This will store student responses so they can be retrieved and scored later.
- Each testing site will need a Testing Site Manager (TSM) installed on a server or computer. The TSM will send and receive test content and responses between the student workstation and DRC's servers.

WIDA Online Screener Training

Individual test administrators must be trained in its administration and have agreed to maintain the security of test questions.

To participate in training, log into the WIDA website (www.wida.us), go to your My Account & Secure Portal page, look under "Screener Test Materials & Training" and click on the button that says WIDA Screener Online.

Beyond training, the only requirement to give the WIDA Online Screener is that the test administrator must be a district employee that, at a minimum, meets the requirements of a paraprofessional under Title I. **Substitute teachers may not give the W-APT unless they are under contract with the district**.

WIDA Online Screener Test Administration

The grade spans available will match the new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 grade spans: K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12.
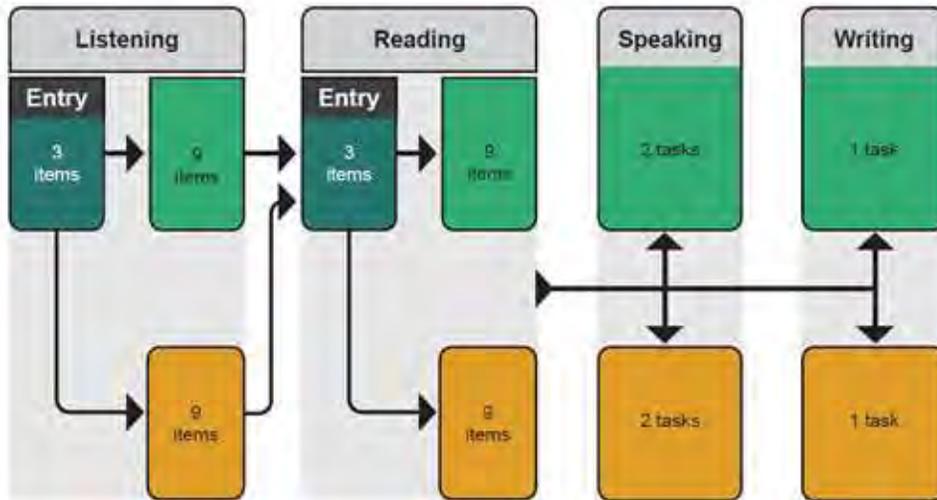
With the Online Screener, all test domains may be done in group administration. Note that the test in untimed, so students may take as much time as needed.

The Online Screener is for all grade levels except kindergarten and is administered in the following order (shown with estimated times, not including setup):
- Listening (approximately 20 minutes)
- Reading (approximately 15 minutes)
- Speaking (approximately 15 minutes)
- Writing (approximately 20 minutes)

In grades 1-3, the district will locally print the writing items for the student. In grades 4-12, for students that need paper, the student will see the items on the screen and the district will provide the student with blank paper.

WIDA Screener Online

While monitoring student progress through the Listening and Reading tests, please keep the following in mind:

- Students cannot go back and review or change their answers. When a student selects a response and clicks the Next button to move on, his or her answer has been submitted and cannot be changed.
- On the Listening test, the audio will automatically play once the student navigates to the page and will only play one time. Note: Students taking the Listening test with accommodations can manually play and/or repeat the audio.
- Unlike the Listening, Speaking, and Writing tests, there is no audio during the Reading test items. There is however audio during the directions that precede Reading test items.
- When a student has finished a domain test, make sure the student clicks to exit the completed domain test and then clicks the appropriate link on the test selection page to begin the next domain test.

WIDA Online Screener Scoring

The system will automatically score the Listening and Reading items of the student. Student responses for Speaking and Writing will be available through WIDA AMS approximately two hours after the completion of testing. The Speaking and Writing responses will be scored locally. The local rater can listen to an audio file of the student's speaking response and read an image file of the student's writing response. After Speaking and Writing responses are scored, the scores are entered into the WIDA AMS site. The site will calculate the scores and deliver a score report that can be viewed or downloaded from WIDA AMS.

Students who complete all four domains of WIDA Screener Online will receive Proficiency Level scores in each of the four domains (Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing) and three composite scores. The three composite scores are:

- Overall (based on student performance in all four domains)
- Oral (based on student performance in Speaking and Listening)
- Literacy (based on student performance in Reading and Writing)

The individual domain Proficiency Level scores are reported as integer scores, so no decimals will be reported. The composite scores will be reported as integers and also with .5 interval scores (for example, scores of 1, 1.5. 2, 2.5, etc.). Scale scores are not reported.

WIDA Online Screener Eligibility for Services

Eligibility cuts for services remain the same with the online screener:

	The student is **ELIGIBLE** for English Language services if they:	The student is **NOT ELIGIBLE** for English Language services if they:
SCORE	Have a composite proficiency level score lower than 5.0	Have a composite proficiency level score of 5.0 or higher
OUTCOME	Student should be identified as LEP_RCV or LEP_NRC in MOSIS and will take the ACCESS 2.0 assessment.	Student should be identified as NLP in MOSIS.

Parent/Legal Guardian Notification

Parents must be notified about the screening test results and placement decisions no later than 30 calendar days after the beginning of the school year or within 10 school days if the student enrolls in the school district during the school year. Such notifications shall be provided in English and in a language that the parents can understand, to the maximum extent practicable.

Notifications must include:
- Eligibility for ELD services
- Student's level of proficiency and how it was assessed
- Method of delivery of instruction for ELD
- How program will help the child learn English and meet age appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation
- Specific requirements for exiting the program
- Information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance detailing:
- The right that parents have to have the child immediately removed from Title III supplemental programs upon their request
- Assisting parents in selecting among various programs or methods of instruction, if more than one program or method is offered
- Notification of services must be sent to parents on an annual basis

Note that this is a notification of the students' ELP level and how the district will meet the student's ELD needs, not a consent for the child to receive services. Parents have the right to choose whether or not their child receives Title III Supplemental ELD services.