

Frequently Asked Questions: WIDA Screener

[Secure Portal](#)

[CEDARS](#)

[TA Training](#)

[Paper Materials](#)

[WIDA AMS \(DRC\)](#)

[Who to test](#)

Testing Window

[Eligibility Criteria](#)

WIDA Secure Portal

What is on the WIDA Secure Portal?

The WIDA Secure Portal houses the TA training courses for the WIDA Screener and other assessments from WIDA. Professional learning courses can be found under the eLearning section of the secure portal. In addition, the Download Library has various useful resources, include resources for Technology Coordinators.

Where do I find the Test Administration Manual (TAM)?

The TAM is located in the Additional Resources section of the Kindergarten Screener and Online Screener training courses along with other documents that may support test administration.

How do I get access to the WIDA Secure Portal?

The District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) in each district can create accounts for individuals in the district. You can also contact customer service at WIDA (help@wida.us) to have a basic account with access to eLearning set up. The DAC can assign permissions within the WIDA Secure Portal. To access the screener training, you account must be given permissions in the Secure Portal.

How do I assign permissions to the screener training?

If you are the DAC, your secure portal access should include a button called Account Management and Training Status. This is where you can adjust permissions for accounts in your district.

On September 1, when the new secure portal is launched, account management will be located in the top right corner near (or under) your account icon.

How do I assign another person to have DAC privileges in the Secure Portal?

The DAC has the highest permission levels in the district. If a second person should have the same permissions as the DAC, the DAC can email ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us with the request. OSPI will make the adjustment in permission.

TA Training

What trainings do I need to complete?

Test administrators need to complete training for the grade level or grade band they will be administering. The only exception to this rule is those TAs who administer tests across all grade levels. These TAs can complete the K, 2-3, 6-8, and 9-12 trainings.

How do I access the test administrator training?

The trainings are located on the Secure Portal in the Screener Test Materials and Training section. If you do not see this section available in your view, you have probably not been given access to it yet. Your DAC (or DAC designee) can provide access.

Where do I get materials to train my staff on the screener?

The WIDA system requires that all test administrators complete training on the WIDA Secure Portal. There are no training materials outside of the secure portal that are used for test administration training.

When can I do the training?

The screener trainings are asynchronous trainings that can be done in the secure portal at any time. However, on September 1, 2021, WIDA will launch a new Secure Portal. At that time, any incomplete trainings will be lost. Completed trainings will transfer to the new Secure Portal. Please note that WIDA does not operate on Pacific time, so if you are finishing up a training at the end of August, don't wait until the last minute.

How long does the training take?

The training is significantly longer than previous ELP assessment trainings as it includes scorer training for speaking and writing. Estimates for a single grade level/band training are approximately 3-5 hours. However, estimates for four grade bands is around 10 hours, so the time needed decreases with additional trainings.

WIDA AMS (DRC)

What is WIDA AMS and how is it different from the WIDA Secure Portal?

WIDA AMS is the testing platform for WIDA. This is where students take the online test. It is also where TAs input scores for the locally scored portions of the test.

How do I upload students to WIDA AMS?

Students can be uploaded by individuals with school or district coordinator permissions in WIDA AMS. Under "Student Management" choose "Manage Students" and then either add a single user or upload a file to add multiple students.

How do I get a temporary ID for students who do not yet have an SSID?

The temporary ID process is not being used for the WIDA system. Districts can add a student for screening with a district identification number. When the student is assigned an SSID, the district can change the record in WIDA AMS to reflect the correct SSID number.

How do we find out about the secure browser or other technology requirements for WIDA testing?

DRC has a Technology Coordinator permissions level. This permissions level is also used in communications from DRC to districts about technology updates. If you do not have anyone from your district assigned to the Technology Coordinator role in WIDA AMS, identifying someone for this role would be beneficial. Please note that the DAC cannot also be the Technology Coordinator as one role seems to cancel out the permissions for the other. There are also materials in the WIDA Secure Portal for technology coordinators (Download Library).

How do I get access to administer the WIDA Screener?

DACS will need to enable testing and scoring in WIDA AMS for those who complete training in the WIDA Secure Portal. DACs can get a list of completed training from the WIDA Secure Portal and then enable testing and scoring permissions in WIDA AMS as appropriate.

How do I test a student if the school is not showing up in DRC?

For the screener, you can test a student in your district in any school. You will need to move their record to the correct school once that school is there. If your district has a Special Situations school, this school can be used to test kids who are not yet assigned to a school or whose school is not yet populating in DRC.

Paper Materials

How do districts order paper materials for Kindergarten Screening?

OSPI has placed an order for Kindergarten Screening kits. Districts will receive one screening kit for every 30 students anticipated to enroll in the district. The screening kits will include test administration materials and booklets for 30 students. These materials are expected to arrive in districts the week of August 23.

If you need materials for Kindergarten screening prior to the arrival of the OSPI ordered materials, you can print the materials you need from the WIDA Secure Portal. Materials for Kindergarten Screener are found in the Additional Resources section of the Kindergarten Screener training.

Where can I get the grade 1-3 writing booklet?

OSPI is working with WIDA to provide these booklets for districts. If you need them sooner than the booklets arrive, then the materials can be printed from the WIDA Secure Portal. Materials are found in the Resources portion of the training for grade 1 and grade 2-3.

How do I get a paper screener test for my student with a paper test accommodation?

OSPI will house paper tests for students in grades 1-12. Please contact ELPAssessments@k12.wa.us if you are needing a paper test.

Who to Test

Do we screen students who were provisionally identified in the 2020-21 school year?

Students who remain provisionally identified as English learners will need to be screened to determine their eligibility for ELD services when they return to school this fall. If a student with provisional EL status is remaining in a remote instructional model this fall, continue to serve the student as an English learner.

Can we accept WIDA scores from other states?

OSPI is planning to accept WIDA scores from other states, but at this time, we do not have established cut scores for Washington, so students from other WIDA states will need to screen. However, our policy on accepting scores from other states has not changed, so scores from ELPA21 states can be used to determine program eligibility. That policy is as follows

- If a student scored proficient at any point on an ELPA21 assessment (screener or annual), then the student is ineligible for ELD services
- If a student scored emerging or progressing on an ELPA21 assessment within the previous 12 months, the student is eligible for services.
- If the student has not taken an ELPA21 assessment in the last 12 months and does not have a “proficient” score on an ELPA21 assessment, then the student must screen.

Is there a screener for our TK students?

Yes. The Kindergarten Screener is for all TK and Kindergarten students. TK students should complete screening in the same fashion as kindergarten students.

Eligibility Criteria

What are the scores a student must achieve to be considered ineligible for ELD services?

Students in grade K and 1 (including students in TK), must achieve an overall score of 4.5 **and** a minimum of a 4 in each domain (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).

Students in grades 2-12 must achieve an overall score of 5 **and** a minimum of a 4 in each domain to be determined ineligible for services.

Do we test all kindergarten students on the screener?

No. Only students whose response to questions 2 or 3 on the Home Language Survey includes a language other than English are eligible to take the screener.

CEDARS

How do we get scores into CEDARS?

Similar to previous years, districts will input scores from the screener into CEDARS. However, this year, the kindergarten screener scores are not available electronically to complete a bulk upload. These scores will need to be input locally as individual scores.

Score should be reported as

What to use for Scale Score on a screener (required for CEDARS reporting)

A Scale Score on the screener (placement test) is required for CEDARS reporting. For the WIDA screener, domain scores should be used for the Scale Score in CEDARS reporting.

Each of the four domains receives a score between 1 and 6. Report these domain scores as the “scale score” into your SIS in this order: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing. Here is an example:

A student scores the following:

- Listening = 3
- Reading = 1
- Speaking = 2
- Writing = 1

Scale Score for CEDARS reporting = 3121

Testing Window

What is the testing window for screener this year?

To accommodate the unique learning situation many schools experienced in the 2020-21 school year, an emergency rule was created extending the amount of time a district has to determine eligibility for ELD services from 10 to 30 days. This rule has been extended through December 2021 allowing districts 30 days from when a student begins attending in person to be screened for ELD services. Students who are not identified within 10 days, must be considered provisionally eligible for ELD services and begin receiving services until they are able to screen.