



# **Consortium Report 2021–2022**



The WIDA Consortium Report is prepared annually to provide a concise year-in-review that highlights Consortium-wide activities, ACCESS participation counts, and selected communications. The report is published for the previous reporting year.

## Consortium Activities and Events

The 2021-2022 academic year presented opportunities for students and educators as they participated in learning environments that continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most schools returned to some level of in-person instruction, with varying levels of safety precautions in place.

Throughout 2021-2022, WIDA remained dedicated to providing support for multilingual learners and their educators and families. Much of our communication was around helping educators deal with the specific issues caused by the continuing disruption to the lives of their students due to the pandemic. Yet we also continued to develop innovative resources and reliable assessments for our Consortium members. Here are some highlights.

- In an effort to streamline access to assessment training, professional learning, and other member resources, we debuted a redesigned WIDA Secure Portal in September 2021. Users can use the portal to manage their profiles, find and complete ACCESS training, view their course certification reports, and explore professional learning offerings such as eWorkshops and webinars.
- In October 2021, WIDA held a one-day virtual conference in place of its usual in-person annual conference. Over 1,400 registrants from 39 WIDA Consortium states participated in virtual sessions, and many others accessed the session recordings that were available through December 2021. Dr. Viet Thanh Nguyen, whose novel *The Sympathizer* won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was the keynote speaker.
- In December 2021, WIDA received a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to launch Project RESPECT, a program that will help rural K-8 teachers provide effective and equitable literacy instruction for multilingual learners.
- In early 2022, WIDA released Marco ALE, Marco de referencia de las artes del lenguaje del español de WIDA, a Spanish language arts framework that provides key elements for developing standards and teaching Spanish language arts in grades K-12. This groundbreaking publication highlights the linguistic and academic opportunities for bi/multilingual students learning Spanish.

## Professional Learning

After discontinuing in-person professional learning in 2020-2021, due to the pandemic, WIDA resumed in-person professional learning and facilitated 34 in-person workshops during 2021-2022. These workshops reached approximately 1,020 participants. Consortium states again had the option to purchase the Self-Paced eWorkshop Package, which included eight eWorkshops available to all educators within the state. Out of 41 Consortium member organizations, 34 chose this option, and 20,840 educators completed the eWorkshops. In addition, 13 of the 34 states chose a new offering, the Professional Learning Community Self-Paced Package enhancement. WIDA professional learning facilitators also delivered 218 virtual workshops, reaching approximately 6,540 participants.

## English Learner Students Tested in 2021-2022

State	ELS TESTED						Total Number of Students Tested
	Kindergarten ACCESS	ACCESS for ELLS Grades 1-12			Total ACCESS	Alternate ACCESS	
		ACCESS Online	ACCESS Paper	Mixed Mode			
AK	837	11,439	144	-	11,584	99	12,520
AL	4,052	33,046	11	-	33,063	274	37,389
BIE	541	2,547	1,191	0	3,738	33	4,312
CO	9,604	79,454	1,229	-	80,684	851	91,139
DC	1,056	9,006	-	0	9,014	100	10,170
DoDEA	693	5,627	11	-	5,639	16	6,348
DE	1,626	13,501	16	-	13,522	29	15,177
FL	34,957	0	233,870	0	233,870	979	269,806
GA	15,044	121,112	387	-	121,503	1,351	137,898
HI	1,415	15,724	12	0	15,736	241	17,392
ID	1,591	16,436	52	0	16,488	159	18,238
IL	23,106	209,323	1,170	247	210,740	4,639	238,485
IN	8,000	71,566	136	11	71,713	1,239	80,952
KY	4,497	31,519	54	0	31,573	349	36,419
MA	11,629	89,554	348	16	89,918	1,651	103,198
MD	11,025	88,800	78	-	88,884	753	100,662
ME	490	4,604	17	0	4,621	72	5,183
MI	8,848	83,333	966	-	84,306	745	93,899
MN	8,043	65,612	369	146	66,127	1,207	75,377
MO	4,471	30,692	69	-	30,762	205	35,438
MP	37	1,436	0	0	1,436	-	1,478
MT	220	3,037	0	-	3,039	21	3,280
NC	11,886	116,583	116	-	116,702	1,743	130,331
ND	348	3,388	33	-	3,422	22	3,792
NH	521	4,336	17	-	4,354	27	4,902
NJ	13,318	94,993	338	45	95,376	580	109,274
NM	4,058	48,319	52	-	48,372	510	52,940
NV	5,580	58,583	-	0	58,590	965	65,135
OK	6,279	58,467	149	10	58,626	752	65,657
PA	7,420	69,785	2,010	165	71,960	1,357	80,737
RI	1,448	14,751	32	-	14,784	182	16,414
SC	4,057	42,507	55	19	42,581	430	47,068
SD	908	5,523	132	-	5,656	43	6,607
TN	7,673	52,832	54	11	52,897	424	60,994
UT	3,895	51,777	52	-	51,838	591	56,324
VA	14,092	10,5301	1,775	17	107,093	2,207	123,392
VI	74	1,028	-	0	1,029	-	1,104
VT	164	1,434	14	-	1,450	29	1,643
WA	15,474	11,3661	80	-	113,746	2,114	131,334
WI	4,522	49,221	209	-	49,434	509	54,465
WY	253	2,286	20	0	2,306	25	2,584
Totals	253,752	1,882,143	245,284	749	2,128,176	27,529	2,409,457

Total may be fewer than the sum of all the columns, reflecting the fact that some students took more than one test (e.g., both Kindergarten ACCESS and ACCESS for ELLs Grades 1-12). Dashes represent totals smaller than 10; too few to report publicly.



## 10 Most Frequently Reported Home Languages

Language	Number of students	Language	Number of students
Spanish; Castilian	1,386,741	Chinese	24,599
English	72,188	Vietnamese	22,571
Arabic	45,264	Somali	21,406
Portuguese	37,690	Russian	19,200
Haitian; Haitian Creole	25,616	Hmong; Mong	18,675

## Assessment

- Delivery of ACCESS for ELLs returned to pre-pandemic rates, as in-person instruction enabled educators to resume in-person summative testing.
- Beginning in the spring and summer of 2021, Consortium members began using the new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten. The new screener provides an engaging storybook and an activity-centered experience for young students. A responsive test design allows students to stop when they reach the extent of their current language skills. In addition, a new training course was developed to provide comprehensive guidance for test administrators.
- WIDA Assessment staff continued their schedule of annual test-development activities, though in many cases substituting virtual meetings for in-person ones, to continue to respect the needs of our collaboration partners.
- WIDA research around assessment topics focused on examining English learners' testing, proficiency and growth in the academic years affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, using population data from ACCESS for ELLs Online. A research report published in October 2021 sheds light on the impact of the pandemic on EL's educational outcomes.

## Communication Activities

WIDA published Focus Bulletins, research reports, technical reports, and stakeholder reports. WIDA News, and specialty newsletters such The Big Idea (the quarterly standards newsletter), and WIDA Español News remained popular. 2021-2022 saw growth in followership across all social media platforms. The largest areas of growth were seen in our Educator Exchange Facebook Group (72% increase), a place where educators can answer each other's questions, share resources, and discuss topics of interest. We also saw growth in our newest social media platform, Instagram (30% increase in followership). There was strong engagement with content across platforms relating to WIDA professional learning and resources such as the WIDA eConference, 2020 Edition resources, WIDA Focus Bulletins and Snapshots, as well as articles like Conversations with Tim and WIDA Featured Student.