WIDA™

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Annual Report

JULY 1, 2024–JUNE 30, 2025

Dear WIDA Consortium Members, Educators and Partners,

It's my honor to present the WIDA Annual Report for 2024-2025. This report covers the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. During this time, over 2.8 million students took WIDA ACCESS. Those test results, along with other WIDA resources, equip educators to make decisions about students' English proficiency and facilitate their academic language development. In May of 2025, WIDA became its own unit under the top-ranked School of Education at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. We also achieved significant milestones that reflect our shared commitment to multilingual learners. Highlights include the launch of the Reading With Multilingual Learners webpage, which garnered over 19,000 views in eight months; the successful WIDA Alternate ACCESS Standard Setting event with 64 panelists from 31 states; and the release of the WIDA Language Charts, a brand-new resource to help educators understand and communicate the expectations of WIDA ACCESS.

We saw high engagement in professional learning, with over 44,000 WIDA Self-Paced Workshop enrollments and 224 webinars offered. We published 38 news articles and revamped WIDA Monthly, reaching 142,000 subscribers.

All of the information and accomplishments outlined in this report are only possible through your partnership and dedication to the education of multilingual learners. Together, we're shaping a brighter future and ensuring that all classrooms are designed for mutlilingual learners to thrive.

Always learning,

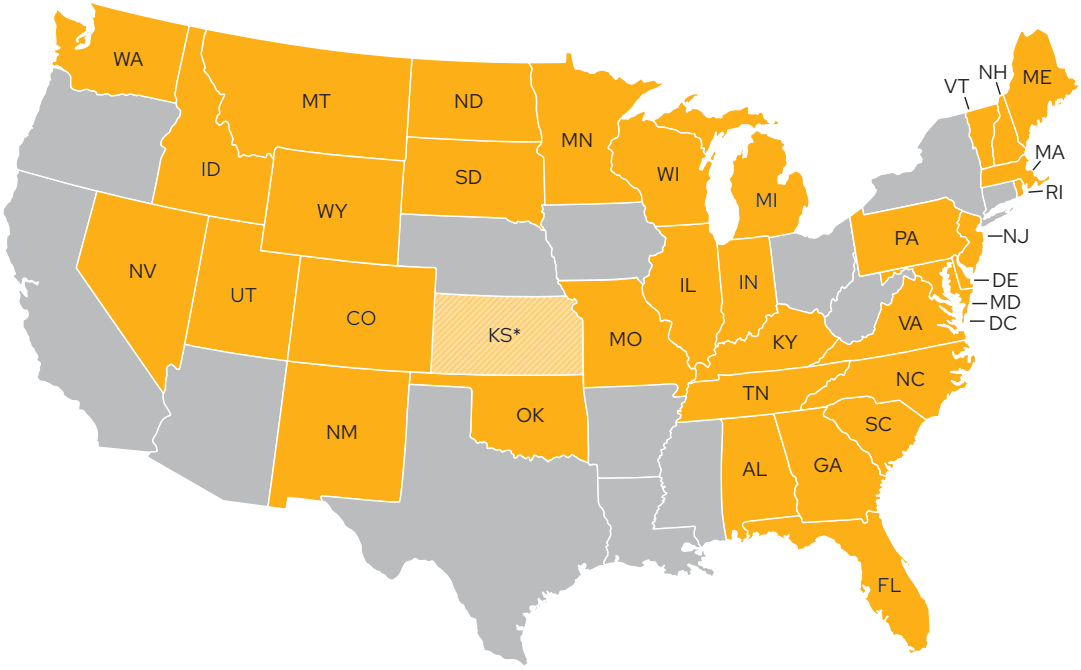
Jenni Torres
Executive Director, WIDA

The WIDA Consortium

The WIDA Consortium is made up of 41 states, territories and federal agencies dedicated to the research, design and implementation of a high-quality, culturally and linguistically appropriate system to support multilingual learners in K–12 contexts.

Highlights

- WIDA staff welcomed over 70 SEAs to Madison, WI, during the WIDA Annual Board Meeting in June and 12 SEAs and two LEAs for the Executive Committee meetings in June and December.
- Nearly 100 SEA and nine LEA representatives met with WIDA staff during subcommittee, workgroup and advisory meetings. There were 43 meetings including both in-person and virtual opportunities.
- WIDA researchers completed a large technical assistance project to support SEAs as they evaluated reclassification criteria for WIDA Alternate ACCESS, an assessment for K–12 English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- There were 409 total languages spoken among students in the WIDA Consortium.



Alaska

Hawaii

Northern Mariana Islands

U.S. Virgin Islands

Palau

Bureau of Indian Education

U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity

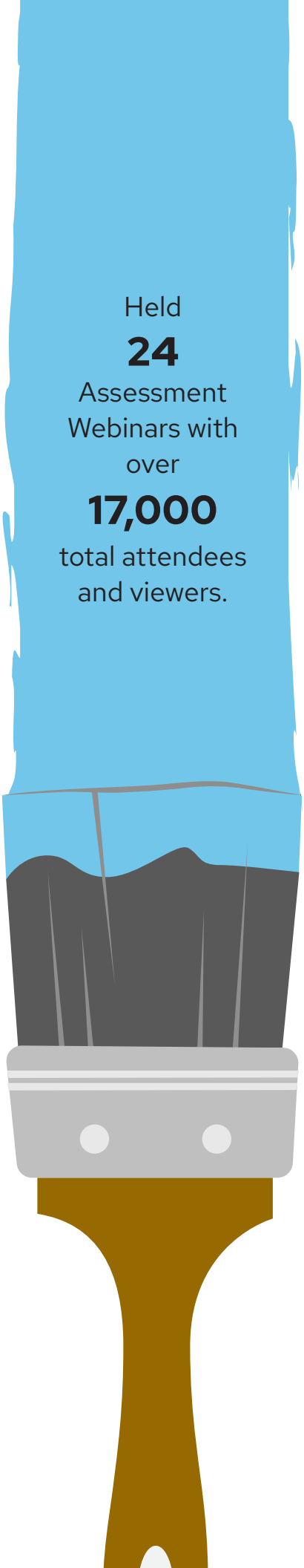
**WIDA Alternate ACCESS user.*

Assess

This year marked significant progress in the innovation of WIDA assessments.

Highlights

- Finalized WIDA Alternate Screener and prepared for July 2025 launch. Published the brand-new WIDA Alternate Screener and WIDA Alternate Screener Score Calculator webpages.
- Released guidance for administering Alternate Screener to students who are blind or have low vision and/or who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Continued research and development of the Kindergarten ACCESS low vision accommodation.
- Successfully completed the Kindergarten ACCESS field test with over 200 school sites participating and 34 states represented.
- Held the Alternate ACCESS Standard Setting event, bringing together 64 panelists from 31 states, territories and federal agencies, supported by WIDA, CAL and ATLAS staff. Observers from eight states and two TAC members contributed to transparency and rigor.
- Released the WIDA Language Charts, a brand-new resource to help educators understand and communicate the expectations of WIDA ACCESS.
- Refreshed and combined webpages in the Assess section of the website to provide more streamlined guidance for educators on preparing, administering and scoring WIDA assessments.
- Created and updated three assessment family handouts, available in 17 languages.
- Continued to promote the forthcoming changes to ACCESS and had more than 38,000 views of our Revising ACCESS webpage.
- Migrated WIDA MODEL Online to Pearson's platform, improving usability and accessibility while maintaining test integrity.



Teach

WIDA's assets-based resources and instructional tools are built to support the instruction of multilingual learners.

Highlights

- Expanded WIDA's PreK–3 resources through new publications, multimedia materials and national presentations centered on joyful learning and effective transitions for multilingual children.
- Launched the Reading With Multilingual Learners webpage, which had over 19,000 views in eight months.
- Launched the Marco DALE Digital Explorer, which offers educators an opportunity to explore the Marco DALE, the WIDA Spanish language development standards framework.
- Published the Administrator Resource for the Implementation of the Marco DALE, an all-English publication providing key information to make decisions on use and implementation of this standards framework.

Grow

WIDA offers workshops, webinars and an annual conference designed for educators and administrators to enhance their understanding of multilingual learners' needs.

Highlights

170
workshops scheduled
(includes virtual, hybrid and in-person)

224
webinars

44,192
WIDA Self-Paced Workshop enrollments

- 23 states visited by professional learning facilitators
- 98% of Professional Learning Units used
- 11,000+ views on articles exploring topics related to WIDA Self-Paced Workshops
- 12 current professional learning offerings were updated and revised
- 1,400 people attended the 2024 WIDA Annual Conference in-person / 1,010 joined virtually
- 2,500+ people attended six free WIDA Webinars

"This WIDA webinar was quick, to the point and I was able to implement it that same day." – WIDA Webinar attendee

"The format of self-paced and self-directed was amazing. I can't always commit big chunks of time all at once and this gives you the opportunity to do what you can when you can." – Educator who participated in WIDA professional learning

Research

WIDA research drives the design, development, enhancement and innovation of WIDA teaching tools and assessments to advance multilingual learner education.

Highlights

- Awarded $3.9 million for the Accessible Pathways Project to advance research on multilingual learners with disabilities, kicking off a four-year collaborative project led by the Minnesota Department of Education and WIDA, with Kansas and Arizona as partners.
- Concluded the Advancing ALTELLA grant project after five years. Over that time, the team had published more than 33 resources for educators.
- Continued work on Project RESPECT, including four districts in Cohort 1 completing the full two-year program, launching Cohort 2 and a virtual professional learning community.
- Published a research report titled "Pracademics: The Intersection of Teaching and Research" that explores the growing movement of educators who blend rigorous classroom practice with inquiry-driven research.
- Published a research report examining how bilingual and ESL preservice teachers' linguistic and cultural identities shape their development as educators.
- Published two WIDA Focus Bulletins and three WIDA Snapshots to provide research-to-practice resources for educators.

Communicate

The WIDA communications team publishes an assortment of new items every year, from news articles to social media posts to newsletters.

Highlights

Emails

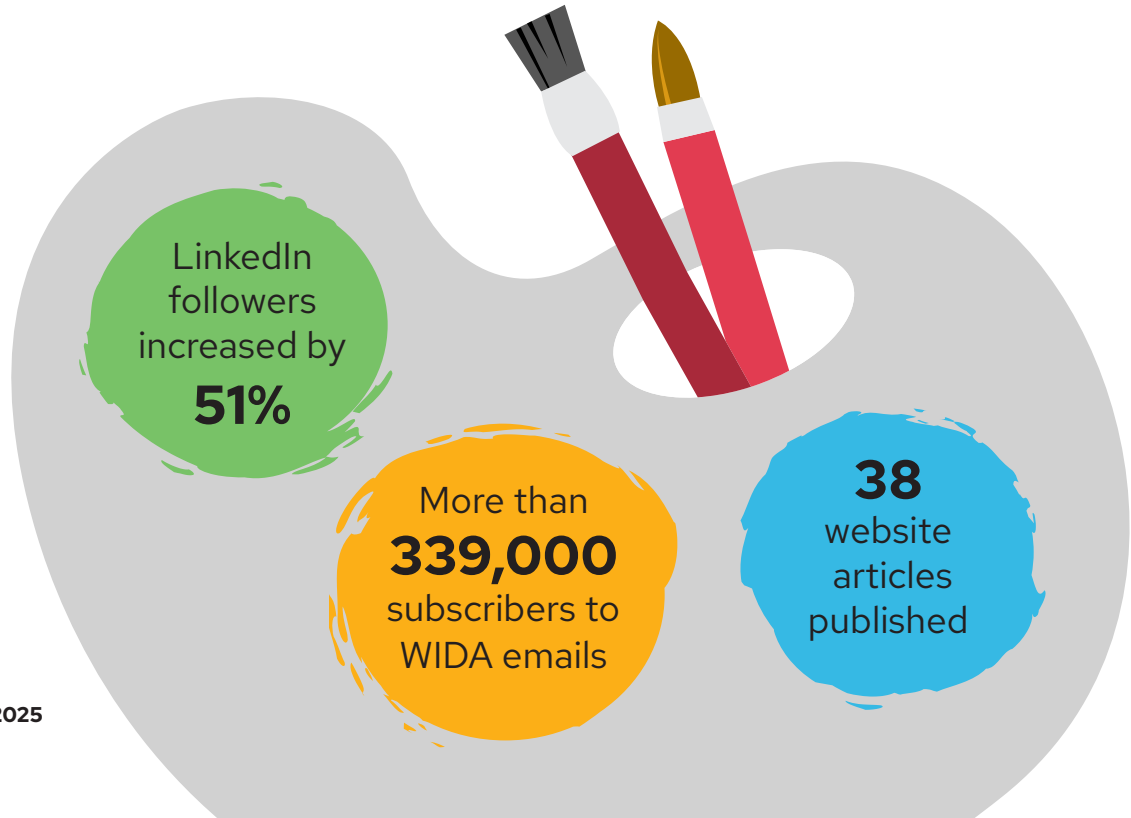
- Revamped and redesigned WIDA Monthly, our flagship newsletter, which has 142,000 subscribers, to be more educator-focused with a lens for timely resources.
- Saw a 20% or more increase in subscribers to our topic-specific newsletters.

Social Media

- Instagram followers increased by 26%.
- Facebook followers increased by 10%.
- LinkedIn engagements increased by 25%.
- Facebook engagements increased by 51%.

Website

- 188,610 visits to the WIDA "News" webpage, a 54% increase over the previous period.
- Published our most-viewed news article of all time, "How to Use Our New Language Charts Right Now."
- What resonated most with our audience: Content focused on or in collaboration with educators, assessment updates, language charts, reading, resources and webpages focused on ready-to-use strategies.



English Learner Students Tested in 2024-2025

State	Kindergarten ACCESS	ACCESS Online	ACCESS Paper	Mixed Mode	Total ACCESS	Alternate ACCESS	Total Number of Students Tested
AK	604	10,537	37	2	11,180	116	11,295
AL	4,866	46,006	13	2	50,887	434	51,319
BI	598	3,615	451	0	4,663	36	4,699
CO	9,429	91,186	261	1	100,876	1,032	101,900
DC	1,039	8,911	24	2	9,976	201	10,171
DD	488	5,234	9	0	5,731	41	5,771
DE	1,483	16,385	17	1	17,886	25	17,911
FL	42,704	0	309,769	0	352,473	1,325	353,796
GA	13,308	145,094	375	3	158,779	1,222	159,999
HI	1,298	15,355	26	0	16,679	263	16,941
ID	1,716	18,642	31	0	20,389	167	20,554
IL	23,816	260,620	973	65	285,468	6,887	292,316
IN	9,823	95,472	130	5	105,430	1,861	107,288
KS	0	0	0	0	0	361	361
KY	5,451	44,885	42	2	50,380	653	51,032
MA	13,523	110,212	305	16	124,055	2,271	126,321
MD	11,260	106,390	113	2	117,762	948	118,707
ME	660	6,894	16	0	7,570	121	7,691
MI	10,620	94,631	256	3	105,510	1,329	106,829
MN	8,010	77,959	619	16	86,604	1,784	88,354
MO	5,096	39,258	71	6	44,431	330	44,752
MP	55	1,351	0	0	1,406	16	1,422
MT	282	3,550	1	0	3,833	23	3,856
NC	16,132	157,504	66	7	173,709	1,447	175,153
ND	447	5,124	32	3	5,606	44	5,649
NH	526	5,541	20	0	6,087	93	6,177
NJ	14,761	129,147	654	24	144,585	1,087	145,652
NM	3,460	50,649	37	10	54,156	556	54,704
NV	5,740	61,714	12	0	67,466	1,300	68,758
OK	5,034	64,651	147	10	69,842	1,037	70,877
PA	9,550	99,980	713	43	110,286	2,277	112,535
PW	0	393	0	0	393	0	393
RI	1,701	18,740	28	1	20,470	347	20,817
SC	5,321	51,963	48	3	57,335	707	58,039
SD	935	7,169	58	0	8,162	77	8,238
UT	4,655	56,538	29	10	61,232	790	62,003
VA	14,415	129,316	1,918	27	145,676	3,260	148,907
VI	107	1,165	0	0	1,272	6	1,278
VT	149	1,793	5	1	1,948	42	1,990
WA	14,018	143,096	113	5	157,231	2,928	160,123
WI	4,788	56,634	184	4	61,610	628	62,230
WY	306	2,593	19	1	2,919	31	2,950
Totals	**268,174**	**2,245,897**	**317,622**	**275**	**2,831,953**	**38,103**	**2,869,758**

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.

Onward With 2025-2026

As we look to the future, WIDA remains committed to advancing our strategic priorities. Key focuses for 2025-2026 include the following:

- Prepare for a successful WIDA ACCESS Standard Setting event in July 2026 and continue making progress on our work to revise WIDA Screener and WIDA ACCESS Braille to incorporate the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition.
- Use data from educators and consortium partners to redesign WIDA's Professional Learning Package to create a more flexible and targeted package.
- Expand collaborative research-practice partnerships, generate actionable insights for educators and leaders and develop evidence-based tools that help multilingual learners thrive in classrooms across the WIDA Consortium.
- Build a cohesive, multiyear research agenda focused on strengthening educator learning and elevating student language and literacy development.
- Grow the Consortium and State Relations department to expand services to member states and create new opportunities for engagement with national leaders.
- Complete our three-year strategic plan in service of our mission, spanning July 2026-June 2029.

MISSION

To engage, equip and inspire the educators who impact the lives of multilingual learners.

VISION

A future where every classroom is designed for multilingual learners to thrive.

VALUES

Centering Multilingual Learners
We design our work around the real experiences of multilingual learners – listening closely, responding to their needs, and building tools and practices to support high-quality educational opportunities.

Continuous Learning
We embrace research, innovation, evidence and lived experience to evolve our practices and deepen our impact on those we serve.

Partnership
We collaborate across educational systems – building relationships, co-creating solutions and convening communities of shared purpose.

Can Do Philosophy
We recognize and build upon the assets, contributions and potential of multilingual learners.

WIDA™
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

wida.wisc.edu

WIDA is housed within the School of Education
at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
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