WIDA and our partners at the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) are redesigning Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs. A key step in the process is to conduct pilot testing at sites. During the pilot test, which takes place in spring 2024, participating sites will administer a brand-new version of Kindergarten ACCESS to students. After that, WIDA and CAL will collect and analyze the data from these test administrations and use it to inform test content and training materials for the Kindergarten ACCESS Field Test in the 2024-25 school year.

Who should participate in the pilot test

- Kindergarten students who will take Kindergarten ACCESS in the 2023-24 school year:
  - Students at a variety of English language proficiency levels, from beginner to advanced
  - Students with IEPs, 504 Plans, and other non-English learner support needs
  - Teachers who work with those students

Selected schools/districts will

- Get permission from school/district leadership.
- Get permission from students’ families (WIDA will provide consent forms in languages other than English).
- Administer the pilot test to students (with WIDA or CAL staff members observing this process at select sites; note that each pilot test administration should take 60 minutes on average – this includes set up).

A few notes about audio and video recording

- At most sites no audio or video recording will take place.
- At select sites WIDA or CAL staff will visit and audio and/or video record pilot test administrations. If this applies to your site, WIDA will provide permission forms and bring and set up recording equipment.
- At select sites you or your colleagues will audio record pilot test administrations. If this applies to your site, WIDA will provide permission forms and recording equipment and instructions. You can indicate your site’s willingness to audio record pilot test administrations when you fill out the pilot participation survey.

WIDA and CAL plan to use these recordings as samples in field test training materials and to inform future test development work.

How to participate

If you are interested in participating in the pilot test, fill out the Kindergarten ACCESS Pilot Test participation survey. Participating school sites will receive $100 per school for a half day (four hours) of participation and up to $200 per school for a full day (more than four hours) of participation.

A WIDA staff member will contact selected sites. If it doesn’t work out this time, there will be other opportunities to contribute to our assessment development work! We’ll be in touch.