



**WIDA™**



# **Consortium Report 2020–2021**



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 each June for the previous reporting year.

## Consortium Activities and Events

A few months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020–2021 school year kicked off with many schools reopening their doors under safety guidelines to avoid the spread of the virus. Despite these measures, schools across the nation continued to need remote learning tools and strategies. WIDA responded with practice- and research-informed resources to support educators. In spite of these challenges, the 2020–2021 year brought celebrations as well. Here are some highlights:

- WIDA successfully launched the *English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition*. This edition represents an evolution of our understanding about how multilingual learners engage with curriculum, and how educators can work together to build on the assets of all learners.
- WIDA developed and published multiple resources aimed at supporting educators, multilingual learners, and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a one-time remote screener that could be administered via cell phone, and a widely downloaded publication *Assessment Best Practices during COVID-19*.
- The WIDA eSummit served as a virtual professional learning opportunity, featuring 20 presenters and 3,054 in-person attendees across 3 weeks and close to 5,700 recording views through February 2021.
- WIDA worked closely with subcommittees and educators to redesign the website’s secure portal.
- State education leaders came together virtually for the 2021 WIDA Board Meeting, which featured presentations from WIDA, the U.S. Department of Education, and fellow state leaders.
- In October 2020, the state of Washington joined the WIDA Consortium as the 41st member.

## Professional Learning

Due to continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, WIDA Professional Learning transitioned to 100% eLearning delivery at the beginning of the 2020–2021 academic year. WIDA continued to honor the same number of PLUs as the previous testing year.

Consortium states had the option to purchase the Self-Paced eWorkshop Package, which included eight eWorkshops available to all educators within the state. Thirty-nine states purchased the Self-Paced eWorkshop Package, with 18,042 educators completing self-paced eWorkshops. States were also able to choose from 13 Facilitated eWorkshops, in which educators could engage with one another via webinars and discussion boards. WIDA Professional Learning delivered 151 facilitated eWorkshops, with 870 educators completing facilitated eWorkshops. In total, 18,912 educators completed WIDA eWorkshops during the 2020–21 academic year. In addition, 72 assessment webinars were delivered.

WIDA Professional Learning designed a set of micro-offerings to support educators of multilingual learners during the pandemic. These micro-offerings were available to all educators at no cost on the WIDA website.

## English Learner Students Tested in 2020–2021

State	ELS TESTED						Total Number of Students Tested
	Kindergarten ACCESS	ACCESS for ELLS Grades 1-12			Total ACCESS	Alternate ACCESS	
		ACCESS Paper	ACCESS Online	Mixed Mode			
AK	424	175	5,315	0	5,914	35	5,949
AL	3,394	18	29,231	80	32,723	284	33,007
BI	105	388	557	0	1,050	-	1,054
CO	7,740	1,339	63,745	0	72,824	687	73,511
DC	50	0	52	0	102	0	102
DD	653	45	5,484	-	6,190	21	6,211
DE	1,303	-	10,232	-	11,549	36	11,585
FL	27,968	210,353	0	0	238,321	1,029	239,350
GA	12,778	4,490	97,305	11	114,584	1,159	115,743
HI	1,343	22	14,264	0	15,629	214	15,843
ID	1,793	35	16,298	-	18,127	151	18,278
IL	15,226	958	132,411	187	148,782	2,826	151,608
IN	7,176	158	64,192	48	71,574	1,097	72,671
KY	3,621	45	24,628	11	28,305	286	28,591
MA	8,397	513	66,049	-	74,966	1,156	76,122
MD	822	17	6,479	-	7,320	39	7,359
ME	255	-	2,221	-	2,487	32	2,519
MI	6,835	1,010	61,593	0	69,438	621	70,059
MN	5,897	247	44,088	142	50,374	677	51,051
MO	3,662	43	28,052	-	31,759	181	31,940
MP	42	0	816	0	858	-	859
MT	155	0	2,410	0	2,565	18	2,583
NC	9,274	282	96,187	-	105,750	1,369	107,119
ND	348	28	3,316	0	3,692	23	3,715
NH	364	209	3,889	0	4,462	31	4,493
NJ	8,047	2,098	79,156	50	89,351	337	89,688
NM	521	3,892	4,417	22	8,852	55	8,907
NV	4,988	-	53,396	48	58,441	622	59,063
OK	6,041	262	52,264	-	58,570	713	59,283
PA	4,162	3,760	55,524	43	63,489	1,036	64,525
RI	1,153	33	12,627	0	13,813	140	13,953
SC	3,335	72	38,335	-	41,747	366	42,113
SD	771	183	5,432	-	6,393	51	6,444
TN	5,815	45	43,500	-	49,363	380	49,743
UT	3,584	-	47,264	29	50,885	499	51,384
VA	11,350	4,594	75,450	123	91,517	1,402	92,919
VI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VT	141	-	1,387	-	1,537	27	1,564
WI	3,609	211	38,047	-	41,873	402	42,275
WY	275	43	2,202	0	2,520	27	2,547
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,417</b>	<b>235,604</b>	<b>1,287,815</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>1,697,696</b>	<b>18,034</b>	<b>1,715,730</b>

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.

# Assessment

In spring 2020, WIDA launched Screener for Kindergarten, including a comprehensive set of training materials. This release was followed by an update to WIDA MODEL, which occurred in autumn 2020.

In collaboration with its partner CAL, WIDA compiled summaries of Online Speaking Test research projects to help SEA members stay informed. WIDA also conducted its own research to understand more about ELs' testing, proficiency and growth during the pandemic.

Due to COVID-19, some states postponed or extended their ACCESS testing windows to May or June 2021. Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Nevada extended their testing windows to September, 2021. The U.S. Virgin Islands did no ACCESS testing.

## 10 Most Frequently Reported Home Languages

Language	Number of students	Language	Number of students
Spanish; Castilian	1,200,062	Chinese	24,371
English	44,303	Somali	22,143
Arabic	42,561	Vietnamese	20,226
Portuguese	32,146	Hmong; Mong	18,243
Haitian; Haitian Creole	26,277	Russian	14,131

## Communication Activities

In addition to the *WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition*, WIDA published multiple Focus Bulletins, research and technical reports, stakeholder reports, and journal articles.

A revamped WIDA News featured increased frequency of targeted news articles, and introduced new features such as Conversation with Tim, an article series that features a conversation with thought leaders in the field of multilingual learner education. Social media became increasingly busy during this year, as well, with the launch of Instagram and all-time high levels of engagement and followership on Facebook and Twitter.

