

2026 WIDA ACCESS Progress Example

WIDA ACCESS Online, Paper, and Kindergarten

Student	2026 Progress Target	2026 Difficulty Index	2026 Overall Proficiency Level	2026 Progress Met	Student Success Plan
A	4.1	58	4.2	Yes	No
B	3.6	47	3.5	No	Yes

- Student A met their 2026 progress target and does not need a student success plan.
- Student B did not meet their 2026 progress target and needs a student success plan for 2026–2027 school year.

2026 Progress Indicator: WIDA Alternate ACCESS

WIDA Alternate ACCESS: No Progress Target Set (2026 and prior)

- A student that made progress increased at least one proficiency level, in at least one of four domains (listening, speaking, reading, writing) and did not decline in proficiency levels across any domains.
- Based on old Alternate ACCESS proficiency levels. DropBox files have columns that end in “_alt_eq” (e.g. listeninglevel_alt_eq).*
- MadeProgress_RE1 in the DropBox file shows a 1 if a student met progress criteria.

*This is the last year we will evaluate progress for WIDA Alternate ACCESS using the four separate domains and the old proficiency levels.

2026 WIDA Alternate ACCESS Progress Example

WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Student	Year	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing	2026 Progress Met	Student Success Plan
A	2025	A2	A1	A3	A1	N/A	N/A
A	2026	A2	A1	A3	A1	No	Yes
B	2025	P1	A3	P2	A2	N/A	N/A
B	2026	P2	A2	P2	A2	No	Yes
C	2025	A2	A1	A2	A1	N/A	N/A
C	2026	A3	A2	A2	A1	Yes	No

- Students A did not make progress in at least one domain and Student B decreased in proficiency in one domain. They both need student success plans for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Student C did make progress in at least one domain and did not decrease in proficiency in any domains. They do not need a student success plan for 2026-2027 school year.

2027 WIDA ACCESS Transition

Year	Scale Scores	Proficiency Levels	What to Use to Evaluate Progress
2027	New scale, only compare to 2026	New proficiency levels, do not compare to prior years	Scale scores reported on WIDA AMS

- WIDA will report student results on new proficiency levels in 2027 and schools/districts cannot compare proficiency level targets set in 2026 (old scale) to 2027 overall proficiency levels (new scale).
- DESE is providing scale score progress targets so that progress can be assessed on the new scale when schools and districts receive WIDA ACCESS results in WIDA AMS in late spring 2027.

2027 WIDA ACCESS Targets

Included in R2 DropBox Files

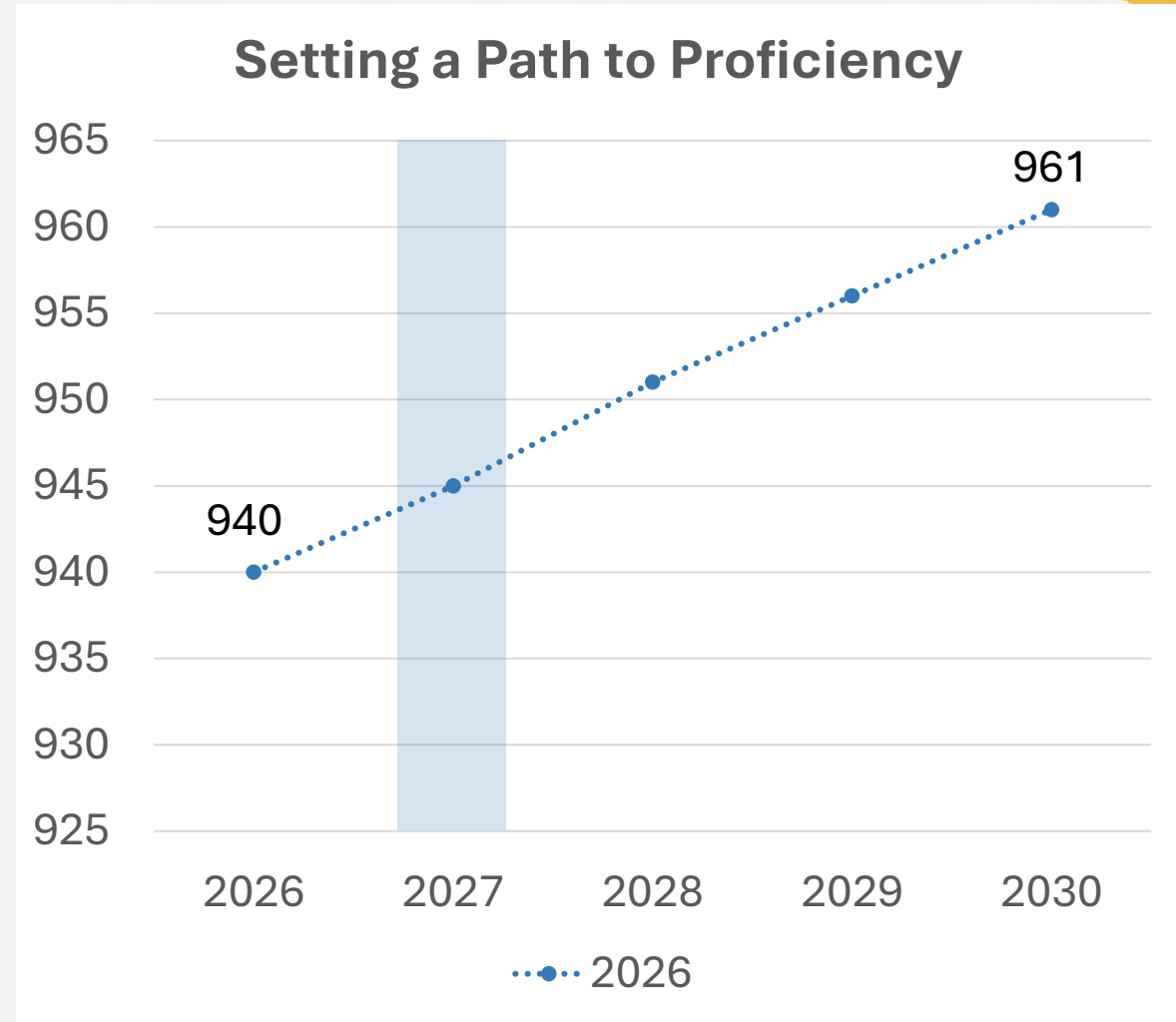
Column Name	Description	Scale	Usage
ProgressTarget2027	Scale score value.	New	Use this target to identify whether a student made progress criteria in late Spring 2027 when WIDA AMS reports student test scores.
DifficultyIndex2027	An estimate of the amount of growth a student needs to meet their 2027 progress target. Ranges from 1 (least difficult) to 99 (most difficult).	N/A	Use to identify students that will need additional supports to reach their progress target.
ProgressTarget2027_PL_eq	Proficiency level equivalence of scale score target for students that take WIDA ACCESS .	Old	To be used for student success plans and learning goals.

Setting 2027 WIDA Alternate ACCESS Targets

- For the first time, DESE provided progress targets for students that take WIDA Alternate ACCESS.
- Targets are based on overall English proficiency and are set so that the definition of a student making progress is the same as for WIDA ACCESS. A student making progress is considered on track to exit EL status within 6 years as an EL in MA schools.
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS test takers must earn an overall English proficiency level of 4 or above and a 12 on an observational form to exit EL status.
- A simple calculation was developed to set progress targets between a student's current scale score and the scale score equivalent of a Level 4.
- Refer to the [DESE guide to reporting elements](#).

WIDA Alternate ACCESS Target Example

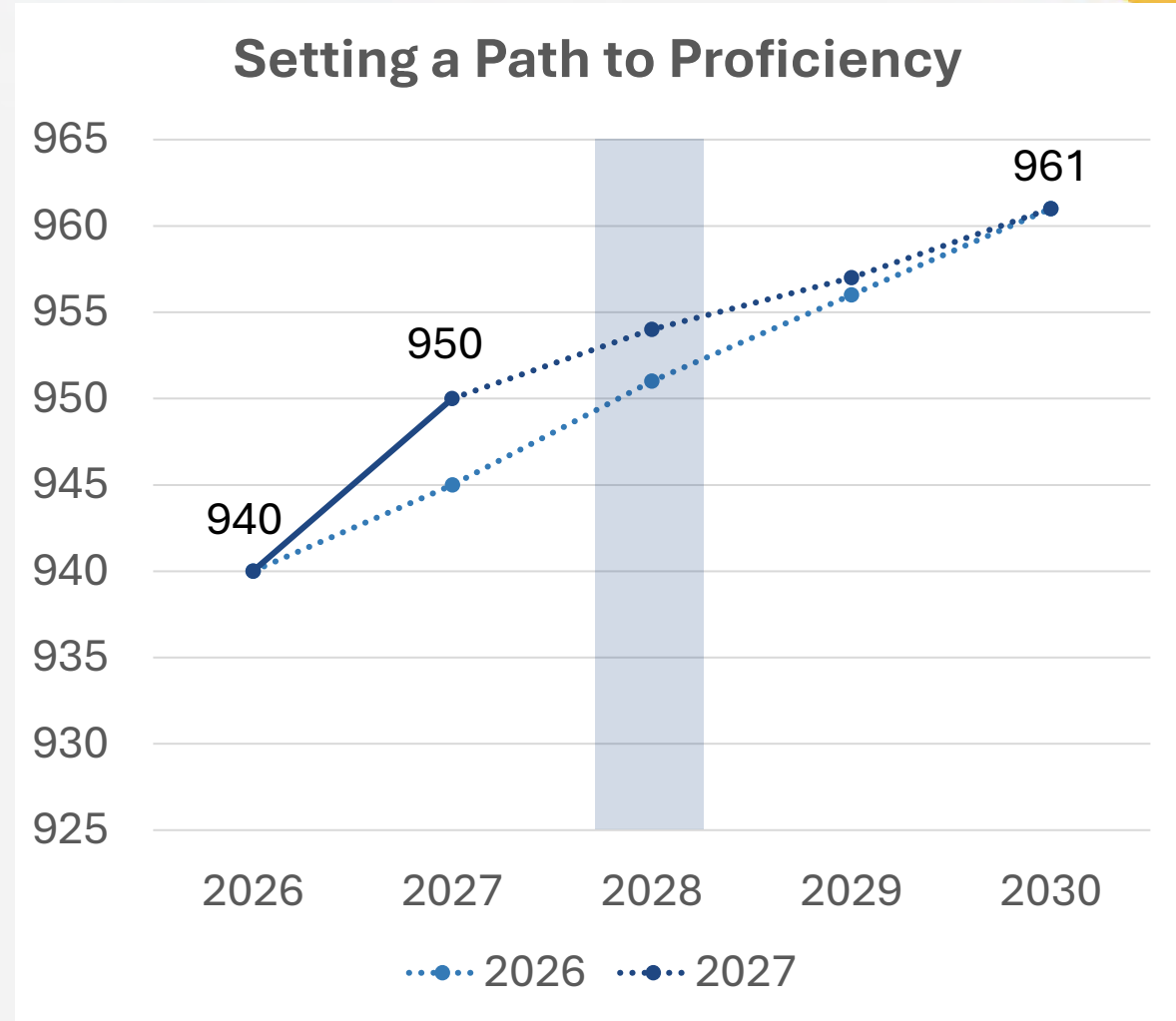
Year	2026
Years in MA	2
Current Grade	5
Exit Grade	9
Current SS	940
Exit SS	961
Next Year Progress Target	945



Updating WIDA Alternate ACCESS Target Example

Year	2026	2027
Years in MA	2	3
Current Grade	5	6
Exit Grade	9	9
Current SS	940	950
Exit SS	961	961
Next Year Progress Target	945	954

Targets will be calculated each year to reflect a student's current overall scale score.



2027 WIDA Alternate ACCESS Targets

Included in R2 DropBox Files

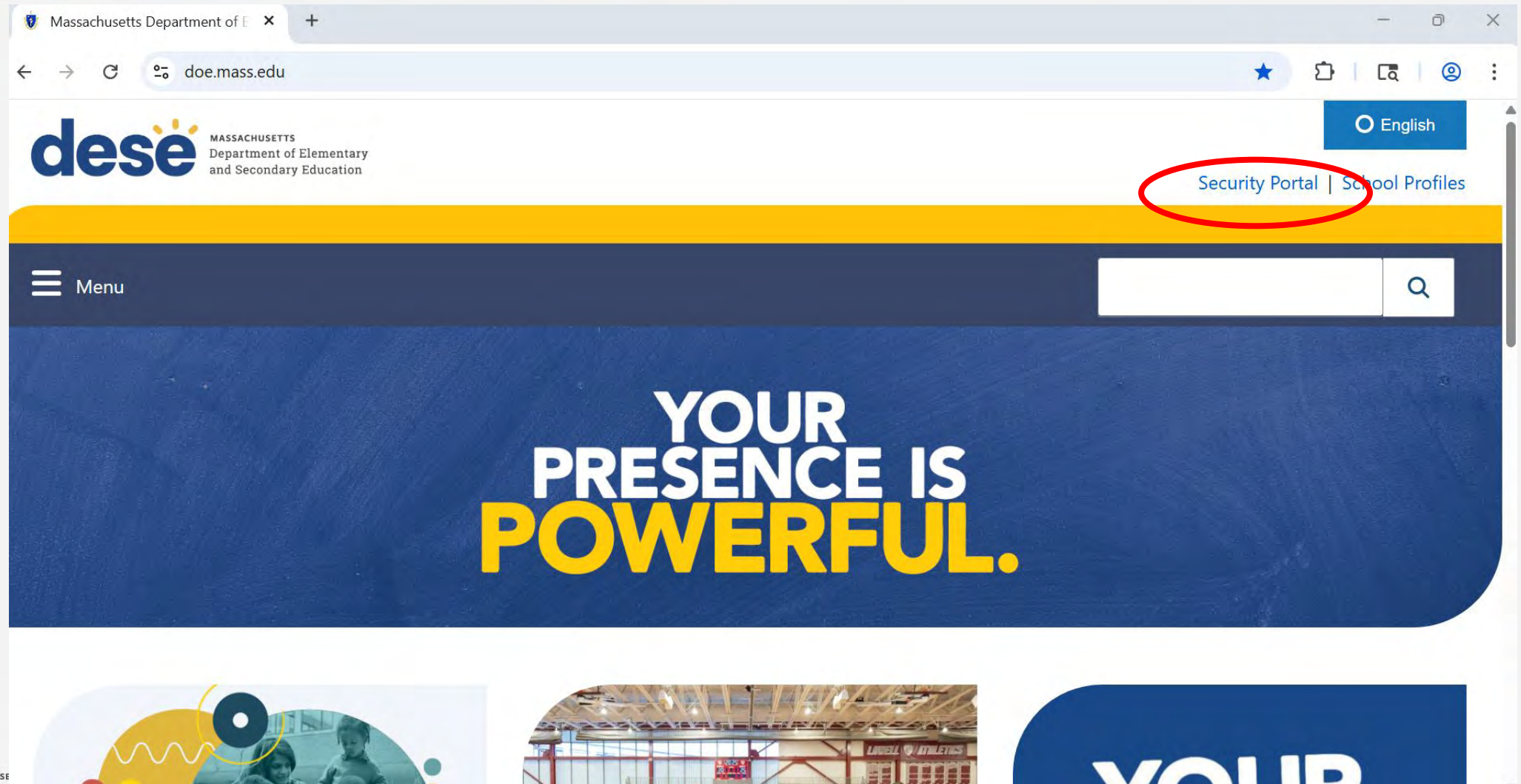
- Scale score progress targets are provided for 2027. Use this target to identify whether a student made progress criteria in late Spring 2027 when WIDA AMS reports student test scores.

Scale score ranges for each WIDA Alternate Proficiency Level

- Use table to contextualize what scale score progress target means for instructional planning.

Cluster	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
K-2	900-940	941-948	949-956	957-963	964-974
3-5	902-942	943-950	951-957	958-964	965-976
6-8	904-944	945-951	952-959	960-967	968-978
9-12	906-945	946-952	953-960	961-969	970-980

Where to Find Progress Targets and Other Round 2 Data



Log in to MA Security Portal to find Progress Targets and Round 2 Data

MA Education Security Portal

gateway.edu.state.ma.us/stardust/login

MA Education Security Portal

Portal messages:

Welcome to the MA Education Security Portal. If you need assistance, please view our [help and support information](#).

***** Update *** Systems maintenance has been scheduled for the following day/time:**

Day: [Thursday, April 23, 2026](#)

Time: [From 5:30 PM to, potentially, 9:30 PM \(ET\)](#)

During maintenance, users may experience intermittent connectivity. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please plan accordingly and thank you for your cooperation.

Message Updated: April 17, 2026 09:30:38 AM

Log in to your account [Getting Started](#)

Username

Password

[Forgot Username?](#) [Forgot Password?](#)

Log in

OR

Go to DropBox Central to find Progress Targets and Round 2 Data

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `gateway.edu.state.ma.us/stardust/home`. The page header includes the MA Education Security Portal logo and the text "MA Education Security Portal" on the left, and "Update Profile Logout" on the right. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a "Welcome mmanares" message, followed by "Portal messages:" which includes a welcome note and a link to "help and support information". Below this is a red "Update" notice about systems maintenance scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM (ET). The right column is a sidebar with a list of links: "DropBox", "DropBox Central" (highlighted in yellow), "ESE Admin", "DropBox File Administration", "Federal Time and Attendance", "Edwin", and "Edwin Analytics".

MA Education Security Portal

Update Profile Logout

Welcome mmanares

Portal messages:

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- DropBox
- DropBox Central**
- ESE Admin
 - DropBox File Administration
 - Federal Time and Attendance
- Edwin
 - Edwin Analytics

Go to ACCESS Outbox

 **DropBox Central**

[Dropbox Explorer](#) [Security Portal](#)

[Logout](#)

Dropbox

ACCESS Data 2026

Organization Type

Public School District (5)

Organization

Abington (00010000)

ACCESS Data 2026 (Administrator) ⓘ

Select the OutBox or InBox below to access shared files.

OutBox

InBox

Upload

ACCESS_2026\ Abington \ESE OutBox

File Name ↑↓ ⓘ	Type ↑↓ ⓘ	Size ↑↓ ⓘ	Modified ↑↓ ⓘ
ACCESS2026_PreRepDV_00010000.csv	csv	41.40 KB	03/26/2026 09:47:00 AM
ACCESS2026_PreRepDV_FileLayout.xlsx	xlsx	16.18 KB	03/26/2026 09:35:18 AM

Download .CSV Files

Select the OutBox or InBox below to access shared files.

OutBox

InBox

Upload

ACCESS_2026\ Abington \ESE OutBox			
File Name ↑↓	Type ↑↓	Size ↑↓	Modified ↑↓
WIDA ACCESS 2026 File Layout_dropbox.xlsx	xlsx	193.76 KB	08/21/2026 03:28:17 PM
WIDAACCESS2026_Student_Level_R2_00010000.csv	csv	78.85 KB	08/21/2026 03:18:40 PM
ACCESS2026_PreRepDV_00010000.csv	csv	41.40 KB	03/26/2026 09:47:00 AM
ACCESS2026_PreRepDV_FileLayout.xlsx	xlsx	16.18 KB	03/26/2026 09:35:18 AM

WIDA ACCESS File Layout

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	WIDA ACCESS Data File Layout - 2026						
2	Updated on 7/27/2026						
3	Table 1. File Layout for WIDA ACCESS DropBox .CSV Files						
4	Field Number	Field Letter	Name	Type	Width (for strings) or Width.Decimals (for numbers)	Description	Notes
66	62	BJ	MadeExitCriteria_RE2	Numeric	1.0	Reporting Element #2 (RE2): Did student meet exit criteria: for ACCESS overall level >= 4.2 and literacy level >= 3.9; For ALT overall level_alt_eq=P2 (1=yes, 0=no, blank=not included in RE2 results)	ALT exit criteria is the equivalent to 2013-2023 proficiency level P2.
67	63	BK	ExitedELInstruction_RE3	Numeric	1.0	Reporting Element #3 (RE3): Did student exit EL instruction based on meeting Exit Criteria (1=yes, 0=no, blank=not included in RE3 result)	available in Round 3 as it uses Oct. SIMS
68	64	BL	NotMeetingExitCriteria_RE5	Numeric	1.0	Reporting Element #5 (RE5): Did student NOT attain EL Proficiency (did NOT meet exit criteria) by year 6? 1=Did Not meet exit criteria by year 6, 0=Met exit criteria, -1=Did not meet exit criteria, but yrsinmass < 6, 2=met exit criteria but not by year 6	None
69	65	BM	FEL_Year	String	4	Year in which the student was no longer assigned the English Learner status (student became FEL, i.e. Former English Learner)	available in Round 3 as it uses Oct. SIMS
70	66	BN	FEL_SIMSCycle	String	3	SIMS cycle when FEL Year was coded (MAR, JUN, or OCT)	available in Round 3 as it uses Oct. SIMS
71	67	BO	ProgressTarget2027	Numeric	3	Student's progress target for next year. Scale score value.	New for 2026-2027 school year. Scale score value for WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS students. Schools and districts can use this target to identify whether a student made progress criteria in late Spring 2027 when WIDA AMS reports student test scores.
72	68	BP	DifficultyIndex2027	Numeric	2.0	Difficulty index for next year, ranging from 1 to 99 (from easiest to hardest), an estimate of the amount of growth student needs to make the target next year	None
73	69	BQ	datachanged	Numeric	1.0	Edited from DRC data: 1=sasid change; 2=grade or school code change; 3=duplicate case resolved; 4=domain merged; 5=changed in Round 2; 6=changed in Round 3; 8=built up from SIMS	None
	70	BR	reweighted_overall	String	2	Indicates that a student's overall scaled score and proficiency	Replaced estimate_domain variable in 2025

Progress Data and Planning for Student Success

Benchmark Requirements are Useful for Educators



- Greater focus on individual EL success
- Better support for the academic achievement of ELs
- Shared responsibility between ESL and core content teachers
- Parents as partners

Benchmarks give us the opportunity to create a success story through an equitable education that includes improved support for students learning English.

Roadmap to EL Success



How to Use the Student Level Data File to Meet District Responsibilities

School districts shall adopt procedures to identify English learners who do not meet English proficiency benchmarks (Which students made progress? Who will collect the list, how will they share it, with whom, and when?)

and shall establish a process for the district to:

- (i) identify areas in which identified English learners need improvement and establish personalized goals for the identified English learners to attain English proficiency; (look at other columns for domain scores and levels; use with other data for instructional planning)
- (ii) assess and track the progress of English learners in the identified areas of improvement; (in the student success plan – what works and what doesn't)
- (iii) review resources and services available to identified English learners that may assist said learners in the identified areas of improvement; (is there anything else we can do to support the child, academic or otherwise?) and
- (iv) incorporate input from the parents or legal guardian of the identified English learner. (how will you provide opportunities for parents to provide input? Don't forget about translation/interpretation.)

QUESTIONS?



Thank you!

Melanie Manares



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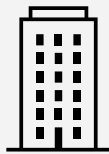


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