2027 WIDA ACCESS Test Coordinator Training

November 2026

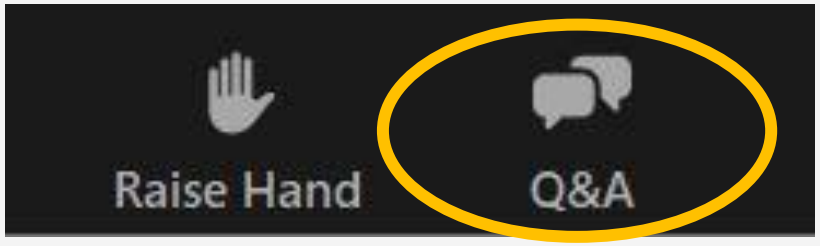
Jodi Bossio, Coordinator of English Language Proficiency Assessment
Sarah Luz, Coordinator of the MCAS Alternate
Robert Pelychaty, Manager of Inclusive Assessment
Melanie Manares, Language Acquisition Support Lead

dese MASSACHUSETTS Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Logistics for This Session

Questions may be asked at any time using the Q&A feature on the Zoom screen.

- Questions about a specific student should be sent by email to access@mass.gov.
- Some questions may be covered later in the presentation.
- Some answers will be provided via the Q&A feature during the meeting.
- A Q&A resource will be emailed to participants in the week following this webinar.



Topics

Preparing for Test Administration

- WIDA Secure Portal, test administrator training and certification, WIDA AMS, 2026-27 Massachusetts timeline, testing schedule, accessibility features, opportunities for test practice

During Test Administration

- Test security, test monitoring, students transfers, best practices for test administrators, testing irregularities

After Test Administration

- Returning materials to DRC, pre-reporting data validation



Preparing for Test Administration

2026–27 WIDA ACCESS Timeline

These dates can also be found on the Massachusetts state page of the WIDA website

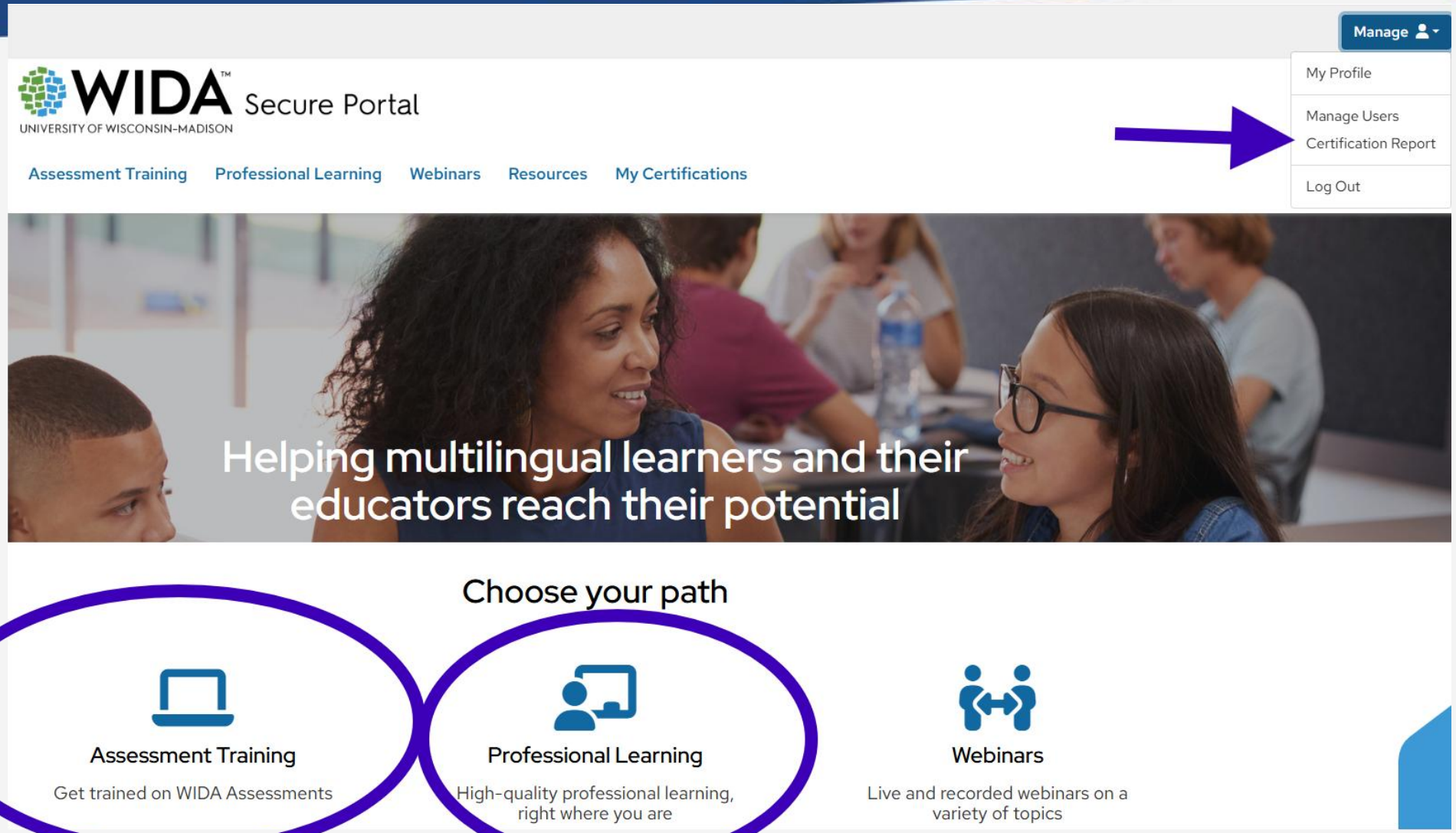
12/4/2026:	WIDA AMS available for test setup/student management
1/4/2027:	Paper-based materials, including scripts, arrive to schools
1/6–2/26/2027:	ACCESS administration window (2/15-2/26 makeups)
2/19/2027:	Last day to order additional materials
3/29–4/2/2027:	Pre-reporting data validation (districts and schools)
4/30/2027:	Reports available for download in WIDA AMS
5/14/2027:	Printed reports arrive in schools

WIDA Secure Portal

- Required training courses for test administrators
- Resources for assessment administration
- Online self-paced e-learning courses
- WIDA Secure Portal (login required)

WIDA Help Desk
866-276-7735 or help@wida.wisc.edu

Secure Portal, Continued



Required Assessment Training

- Training is essential for test security and the validity of student results

- MA TAs are required to re-certify every 2 school years

For the 2027 WIDA ACCESS administration, those cutoff dates are:

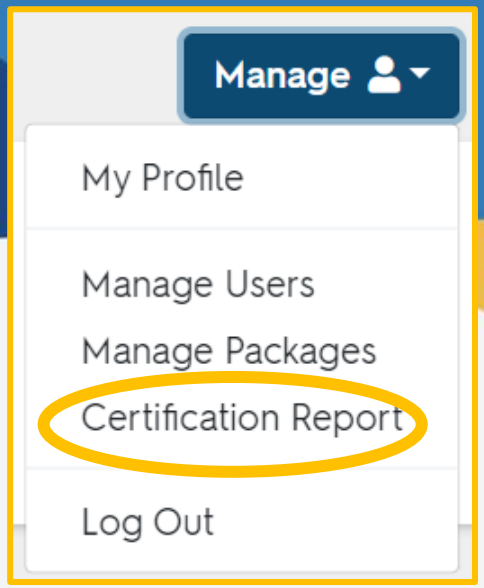
- September 1, 2025: WIDA ACCESS Online & Paper, WIDA Alternate ACCESS

- September 29, 2025: WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten

Training

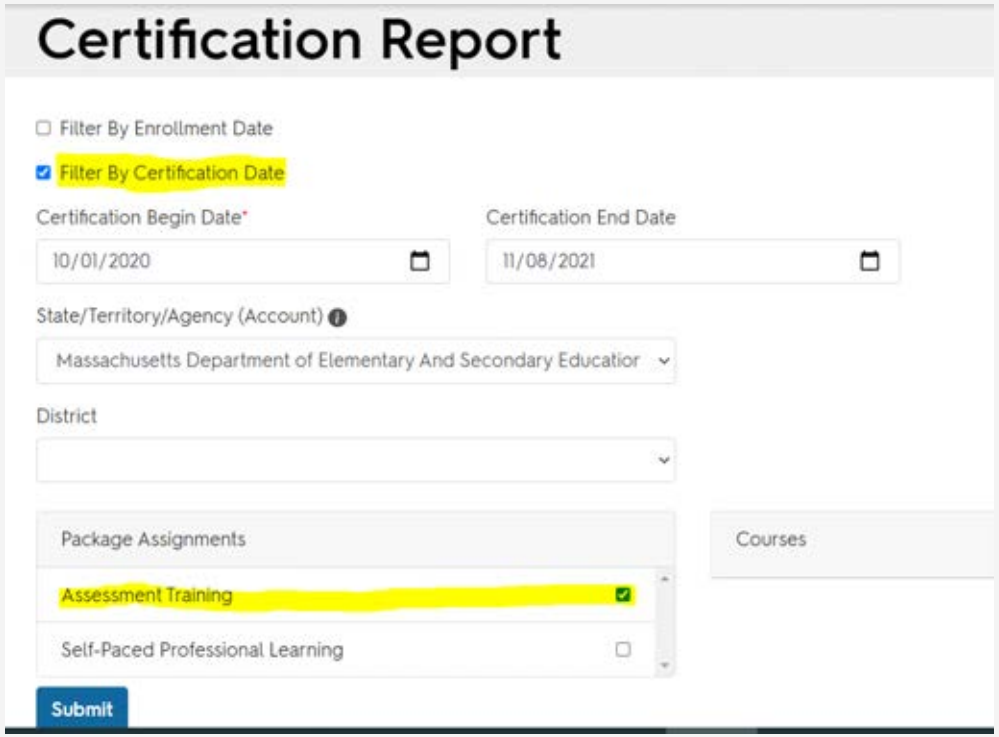
- September 1, 2026: WIDA ACCESS Braille (new course!)
- For domains or forms which are hand-scored by TAs, it is considered best practice to re-certify on an annual basis.
- Ideal timing late November–December
- Each course description includes an expected time required to complete the training course.

Confirming Training Course Completion



Test Coordinators can view certification reports of staff in their district:

- From WIDA Secure Portal login page, Manage>Certification Report
- Check Filter by Certification Date. Enter the dates you want to search. Select a school (optional) and check Assessment Training.
- Select submit



WIDA AMS

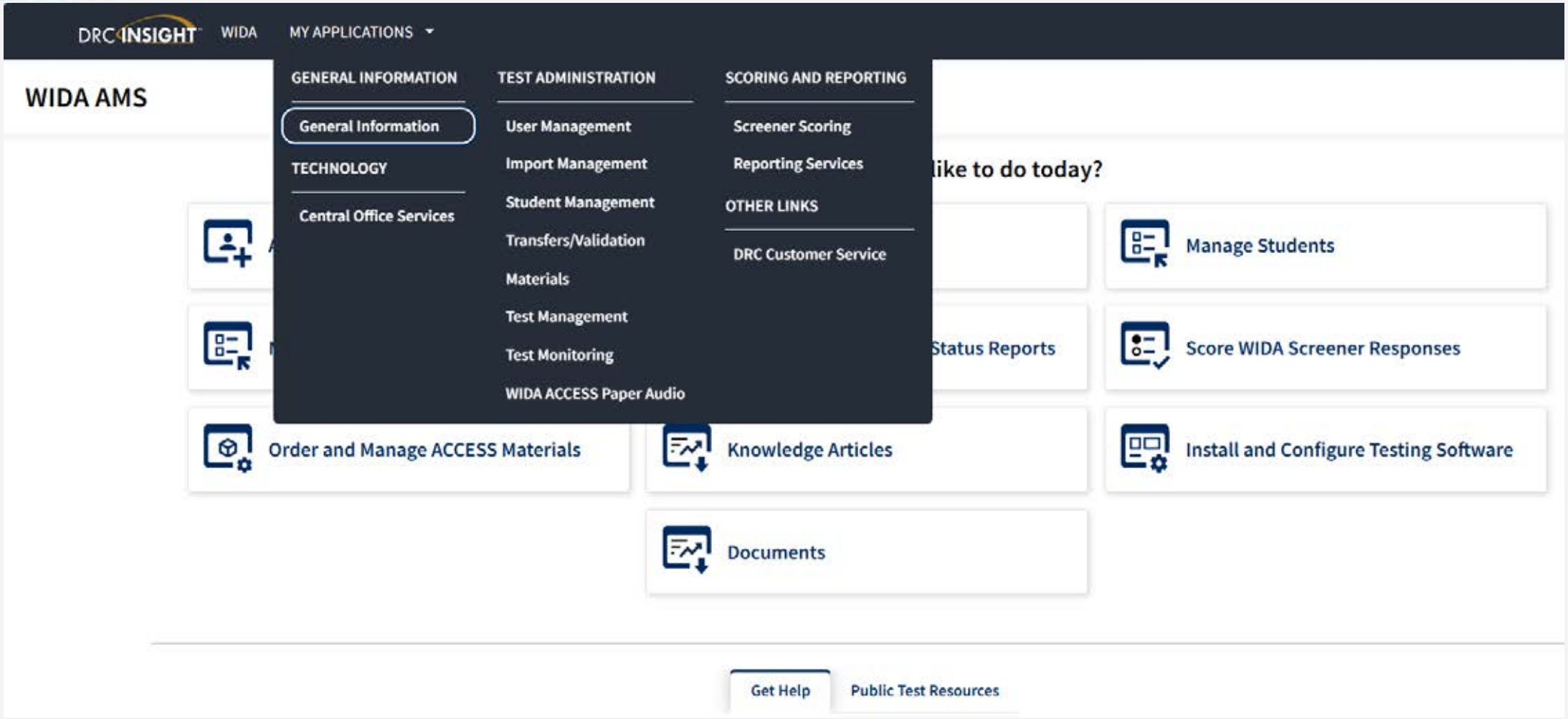
- Students, users, materials, test sessions
- Update demographic information, and accommodations, as needed
- View and create/manage test registrations for groups of students
- Monitor test status within the Operational Dashboard
- Inventory and track secure materials

- WIDA AMS (login required)

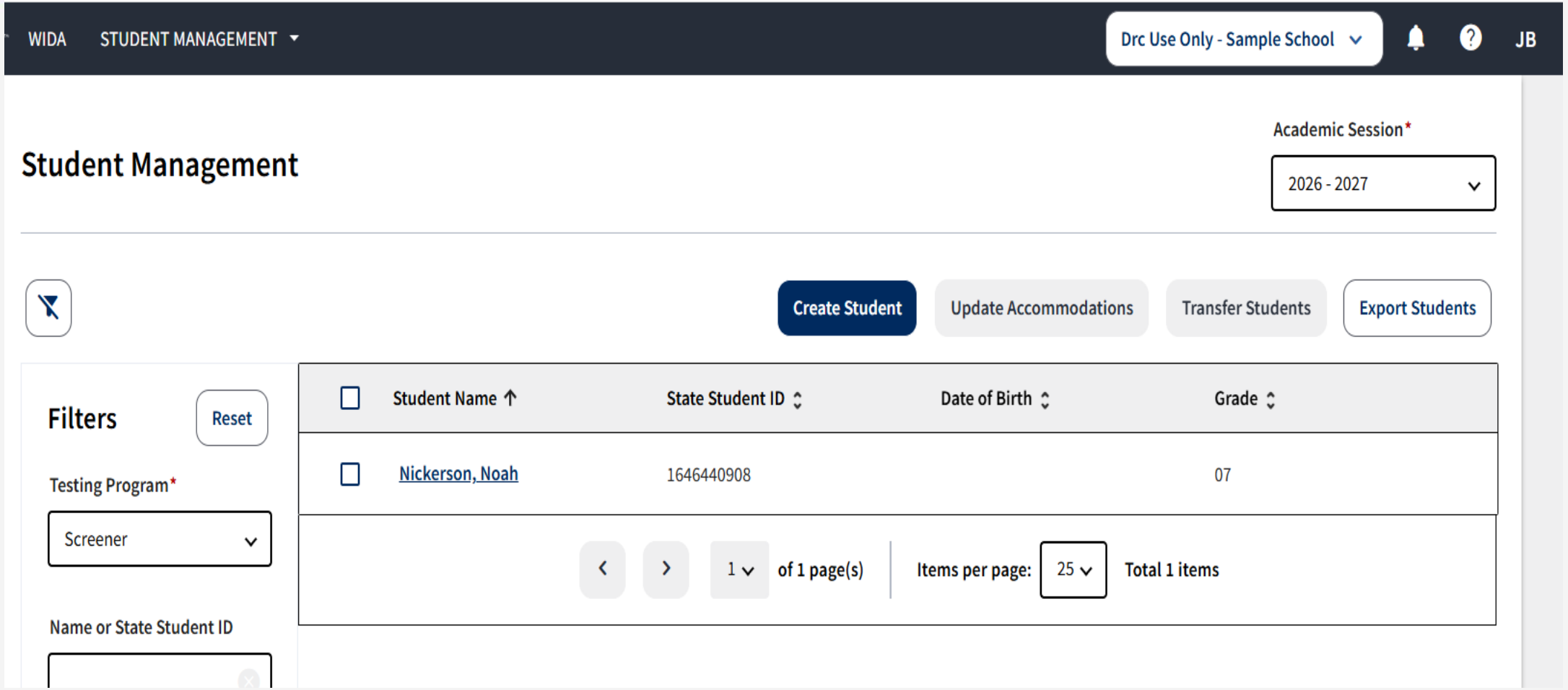
  DRC Customer Service

  855-787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com

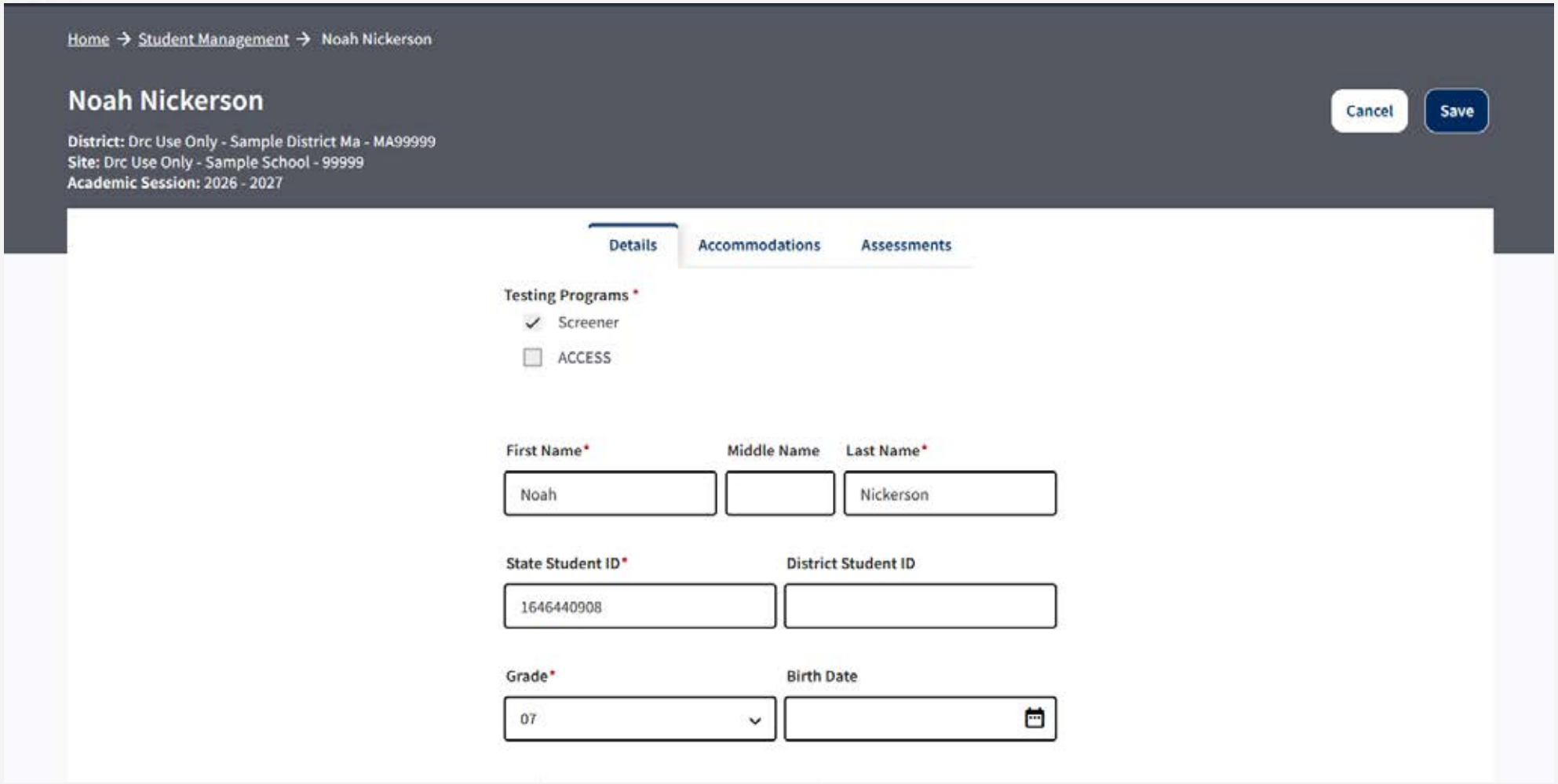
Navigating WIDA AMS



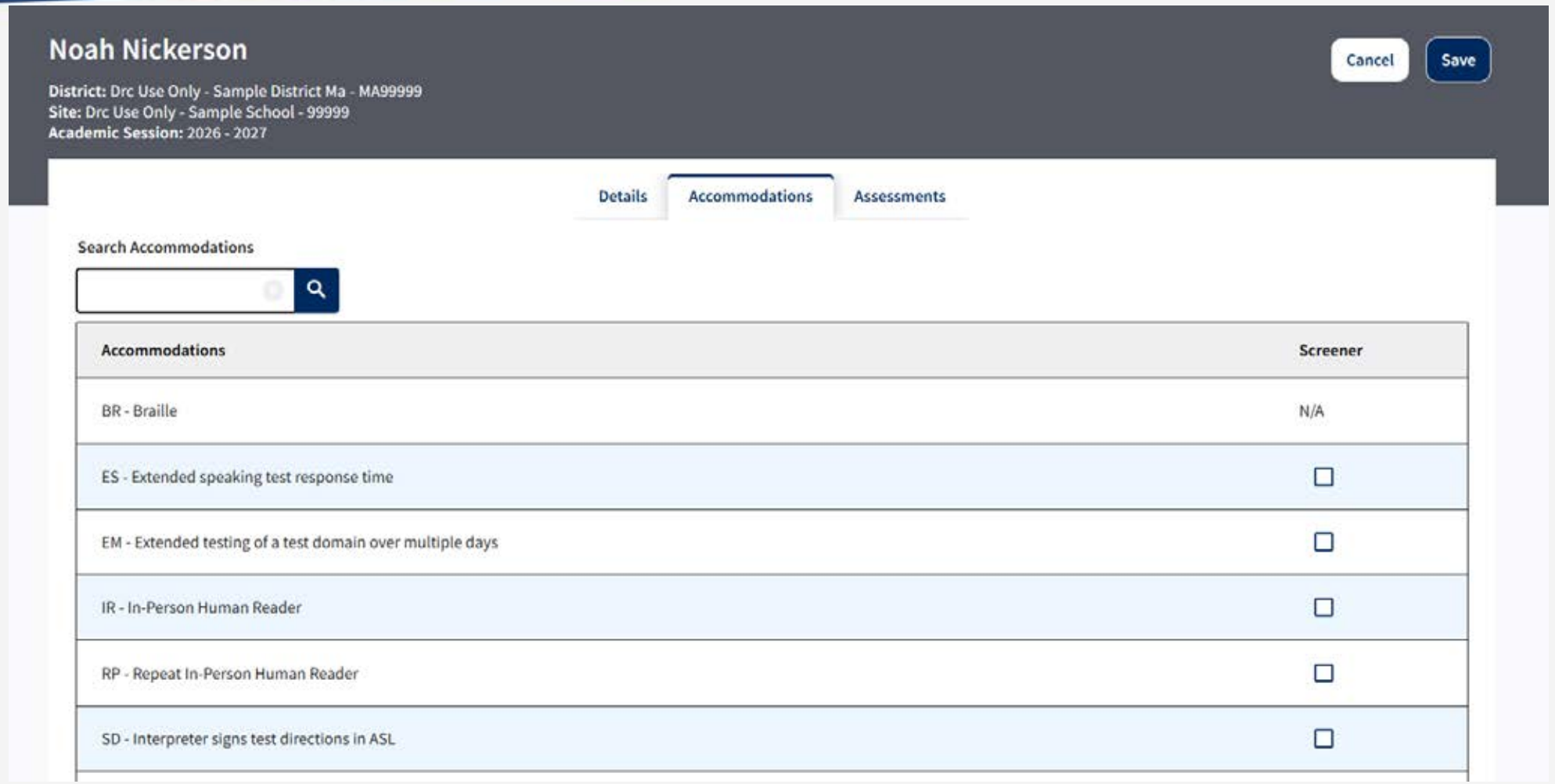
Student Management



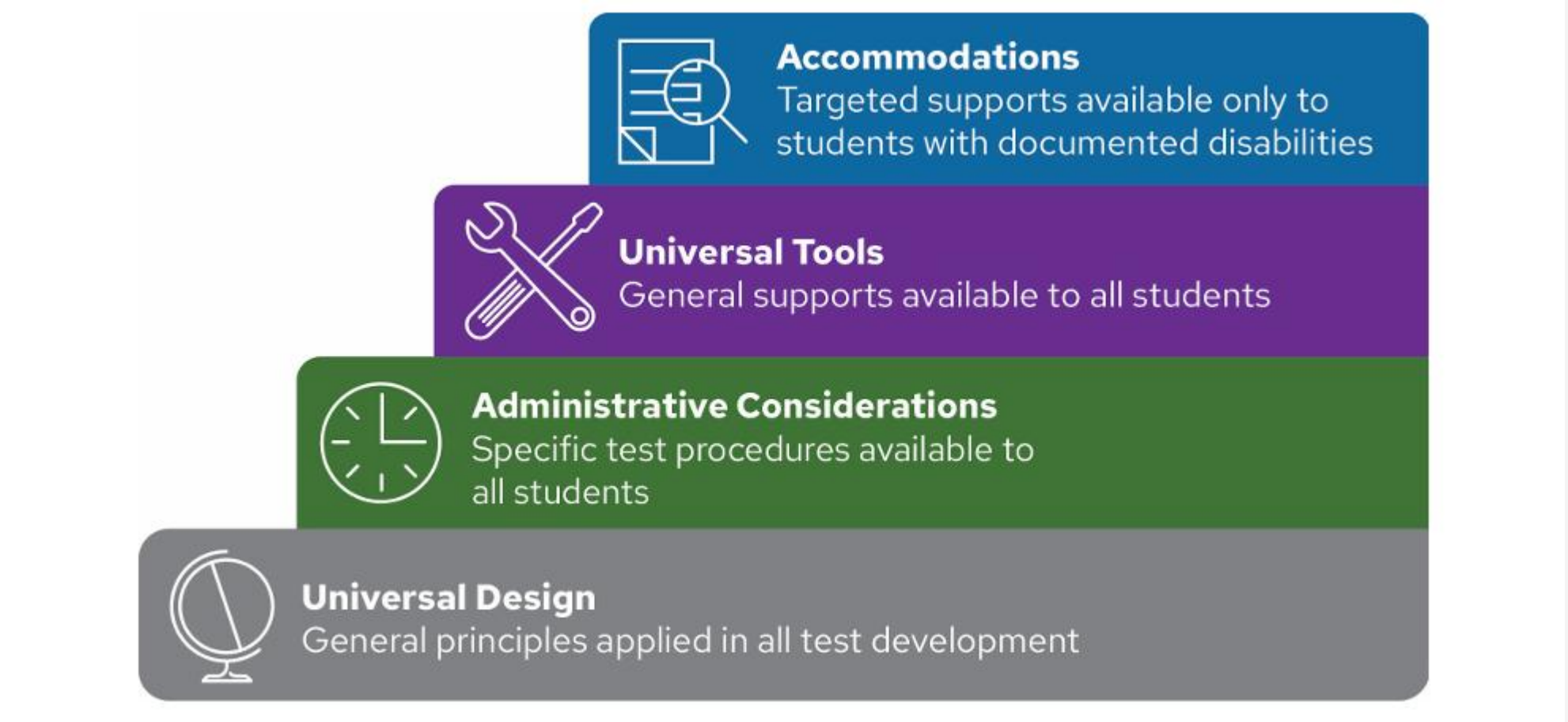
Student Details



Accommodations for Students



Accessibility Framework



Accessibility

- Accessibility and Accommodations Manual
- Universal tools, administrative considerations, accommodations
- Updates in 2026–2027

In WIDA AMS

- Reviewed/update within Student Management from the “My Applications” drawdown menu
- Student accommodations for 2027 administration are pre-populated based on listed accommodations from 2026 WIDA ACCESS testing
- Paper-based forms

Accessibility and Participation

Schools are expected to administer ACCESS Online to virtually all EL students, including ELs with disabilities.

- Students in grades 1–3 use a handwriting booklet for the Writing domain (still considered an online test).
- For first-year ELs or students with disabilities who are unable to take the computer-based test schools must order handwriting booklets for grades 4–12 during the additional test materials ordering window (January 4 – February 19, 2027) if needed.

Accessibility and Participation

WIDA ACCESS Paper is available for:

- ELs with disabilities in grades 1-12 whose IEP or 504 plan indicates paper-based testing is needed;
- first-year ELs* who are unable to take the computer-based test.

WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten, WIDA Alternate ACCESS, braille and large print tests are all paper-based tests.

**Enrolled after March 2026 SIMS*

Universal Tools: All Students

Online	Paper
Audio aids	Audio aids
Color contrast	Colored plastic overlay
Highlighter	Highlighter, colored pencils or crayons (responses must be completed with a number 2 pencil)
Keyboard navigation	
Line guide	Tracking tool
Low-vision aids or magnification devices	Low-vision aids or magnification devices
Notepad tool	
Scratch paper	Scratch paper

Administrative Considerations: Any Student

At the principal's (or designee's) discretion:

- Frequent or additional supervised breaks
- Test in short segments
- Extended testing time (a domain must be completed on the same day as started)
- Adaptive or specialized equipment or furniture
- Alternative microphone
- Familiar test administrator
- Individual, small group, or alternative test setting
- Specific seating
- Read test aloud to self
- Verbal praise for on-task or appropriate behavior
- Verbally redirect student's attention to the test (English or Native Language)
- Monitor placement of responses in the test booklet or onscreen

ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Accommodations Policies

- Accommodations, described in WIDA Accessibility and Accommodation Manual, must be listed in the student's IEP or 504 plan.
- Accommodations that are not allowed:
  - Reading aloud test items on the Reading domain
  - Translating test items, passages, and/or responses into a language other than English (directions may be translated if native language speaker is available)
  - Signing test items, passages, and/or responses (directions may be signed)
  - Use of bilingual word-to-word dictionaries
  - Responding to test questions in a language other than English

ACCESS Accommodations: ELs with Disabilities

- Manual control of item audio (MC)- ACCESS Paper only
- Repeat item audio (RA)
- Extended Speaking test response time (ES)
- In-person human reader (IR) Script required for Paper ACCESS – order from DRC Customer Service
- Repeat in-person human reader (RP)
- Large print version of the test (LP)
- Braille (BR) Scribe (SR)
- Word processor or similar keyboarding device used to respond to test items (WD)
- Student responds using a recording device, then played back and transcribed by the student (RD)
- Test administered by school personnel in non-school (alternate) test setting (NS)
- Interpreter signs test directions in ASL (SD)
- Low-vision script (LV) Kindergarten only – order from DRC Customer Service
- Assistive Technology (AT)
- Speech to Text (STT)

Accommodations Tips

- Extended Speaking Test Response Time (ES) and Repeat Item Audio (RA) must be selected in the AMS prior to online testing
- Manual control of item audio (MC) is no longer an accommodation for ACCESS Online, still an accommodation for ACCESS Paper
- Assistive technology accommodations rely on third-party software, separate from the platform, and depends on the testing device. For example, the Dictation setting available via Chromebooks

What's New in 2026–2027 for Accommodations

- New accommodations for WIDA ACCESS Online and WIDA Screener Online include
  - Assistive Technology (AT)*
  - Speech-to-Text (STT) Accommodation policy changes*:
  - Manual control of item audio for online assessments is no longer an accommodation.
    - It is a universal tool for WIDA ACCESS Online and WIDA Screener Online.
    - All students now control the Play button at their own discretion. Students must select the Play button to activate each audio file. Manual control of item audio remains an accommodation for paper tests. •
  - Professionally produced large-print versions of WIDA Screener for Kindergarten and WIDA Screener Paper are now available for purchase through the WIDA Store.
- * see "Configuring Online Assistive Technologies for WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Screener"

Configuring Online Assistive Technologies for WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Screener

Speech-to-Text (STT)

- Speech-to-Text is third-party software that uses voice recognition to convert speech into written text in applications and text boxes.
- To provide this accommodation for an online test, assign the accommodation to the student in WIDA AMS prior to testing. As speech-to-text is third-party software, it must be activated prior to launching DRC INSIGHT for testing.
- For the 26-27 administration, WIDA will be supporting speech-to-text on Windows and Chromebook. For Windows, WIDA supports the built-in setting called Voice Access, as well as the Talk and Type feature of the Read&Write software. Chromebooks have a built-in setting called Dictation.
- WIDA is not currently supporting speech-to-text on MacOS, iPad or other operating systems. The Scribe accommodation (SR) is available for students who use Mac or iPad as their primary device.

Accessibility

- A very small number of students may be eligible for a Do Not Score - Special Education/504 Deferred code
  - DESE will review and monitor SPD data usage
- Review MA Test Administration Manual 2026-2027 for specific considerations
- Reweighted overall score and student score report available
- Full participation and inclusion is always the standard

Importance of Practice

- Test Demos

  Utilized whole or small group, how to navigate the platform and features

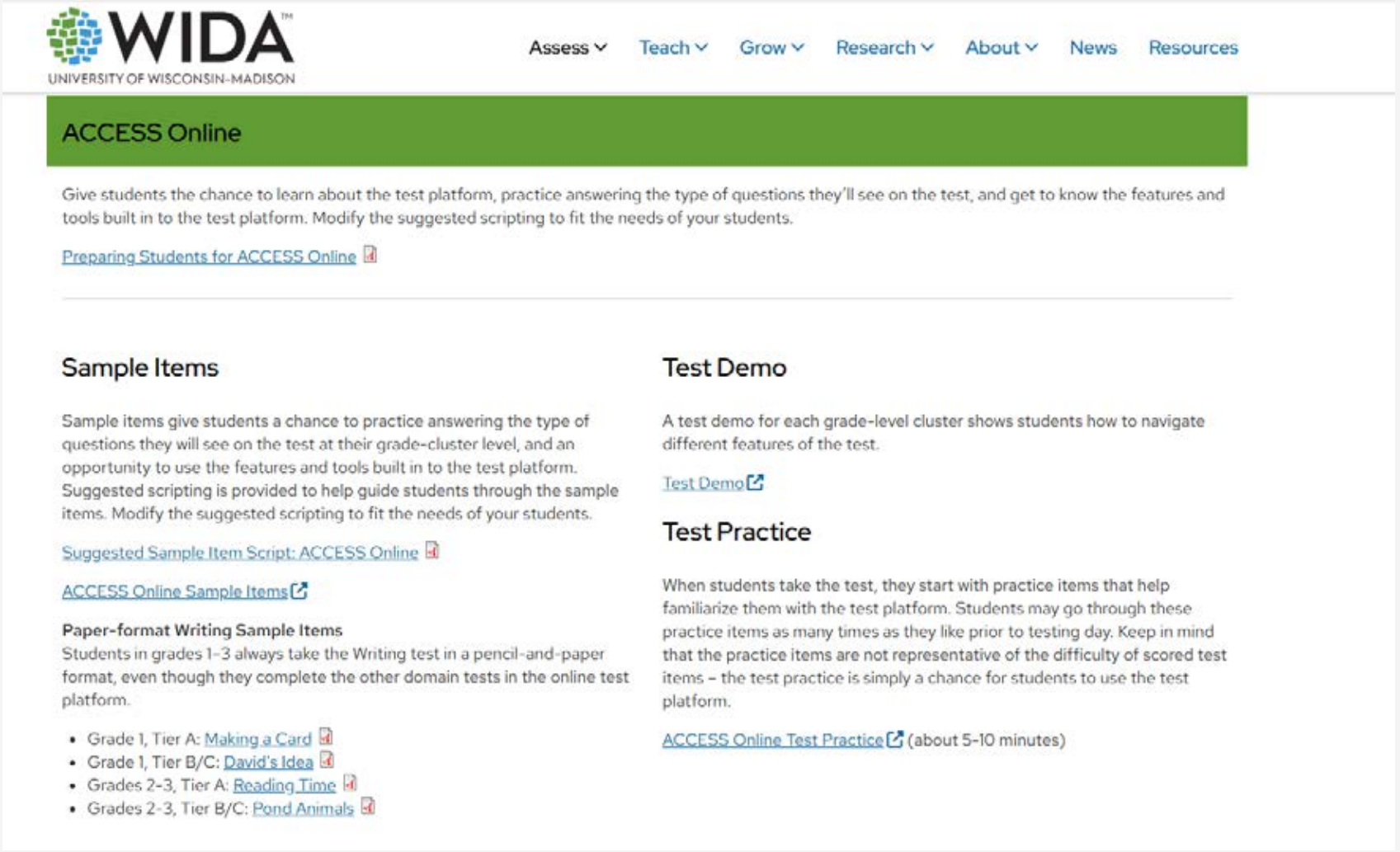
- Sample Items

  Practice with the types of items using platform features (Zoom, highlighter, etc.)

- Test Practice

  Practice also embedded, chance to familiarize with platform (with AT as appropriate) and structure

WIDA Website (login not required)



WIDA Website (login not required)

