

This document contains guidance on the identification and placement process for newly arrived English learners in your state. WIDA and your state education agency have worked together to provide this outline of policies, procedures, assessment options, test administrator training requirements, and criteria for placement in EL services. This document is updated each spring and throughout the year per SEA request.

For questions related to state policy or the contents of this document, please contact:

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For questions related to WIDA’s website, resources, or assessments, please contact the WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.wisc.edu or (866) 276-7735.

Initial Assessment and Identification

Questions/Topic	State-specific Guidance
Process Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Language Survey • Standardized Identification Screening Process/Records Review • Administration of WIDA Screener (K-12) or DE Alternative Identification Protocol (Piloting WIDA Alternate Screener) • Enter student data in statewide English learner database • Send parent notification
Timelines	All students must be assessed upon enrollment and placed in program no later than 25 calendar days from their first day of enrollment.

Initial Assessment and Identification

Home Language Survey	<p>State mandated home language survey is required to be included in all enrollment packets. The survey is required to be completed whenever a student enrolls in a new school.</p> <p>A response in any language other than English to the first three questions will trigger the school to proceed with the next steps in the identification process.</p> <p>Delaware will be piloting the use of the WIDA Alternate Screener with multiple districts alongside our current DE Alternate Identification Protocol to make an informed decision for SY26-27.</p>
State Approved Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten and first semester 1st grade: WIDA Kindergarten Screener • Second semester 1st grade through 12th grade: WIDA Screener Online, WIDA Screener Paper (only as an accommodation) • Delaware Alternative Identification Protocol for students with significant cognitive disabilities
Paper Based Screener Costs	<p>One full set of WIDA Screener Paper was purchased by the SEA for each LEA in 2017. Future purchasing is the responsibility of the LEAs.</p> <p>For more information, go to the WIDA Store.</p>
Identification/Placement Criteria	<p>Exit Criteria:</p> <p>Single criteria: Composite PL 4.7 or greater on K ACCESS or ACCESS for ELLs; Composite PL PL3 or greater on Alternate ACCESS</p> <p>Identification Criteria:</p> <p>Scores resulting in student placement in an EL program—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An oral proficiency level below 5.5 on the WIDA Kindergarten Screener in first semester Kindergarten or; • A composite proficiency level below 5.0 on the WIDA Screener (second semester Kindergarten through 12th). • A team determination using Delaware’s Alternate Identification Protocol.

Initial Assessment and Identification

Other Useful Resources or Information

Parents must be notified of student score results after the screening is complete and be offered an EL program.

All scores must be entered into a statewide English Learner database along with the results of the Home Language Survey.

A student can be rescreened if they have been previously reclassified only after completing required monitoring process and a team decision to reassess has been made.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities are assessed using the Delaware Alternative Identification Protocol. This protocol requires observation and additional family/parental information.

Test Administrator Training and Certification

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
<p>Test Administrator Qualifications</p>	<p>The screening assessments can be administered by any individual that successfully completes the appropriate training course.</p>
<p>Test Administrator Training Requirements</p>	<p>WIDA Screener:</p> <p>To be certified to administer WIDA Screener, test administrators must complete the following courses for the tests they will be administering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Administration and Scoring • WIDA Screener Online: Administration • WIDA Screener Paper: Administration <p>To be certified to score WIDA Screener, test administrators must complete the following courses for the grade level tests and domains they will be scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener and ACCESS Braille • Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener and ACCESS Braille • Writing for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener • Writing for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener <p>New for 2025-2026: WIDA Screener training courses for scoring Speaking and Writing no longer include content related to WIDA ACCESS 1-5 or 6-12.</p> <p>Annual security training is required.</p> <p>WIDA Alternate Screener: Test administrators must complete the WIDA Alternate Screener: Administration and Scoring training course prior to administration.</p> <p>New for 2025-2026: The WIDA Alternate Screener training course will be available July 1.</p> <p>Recertification policy: WIDA recommends annual recertification for WIDA Screener Speaking and Writing.</p>

Test Administrator Training and Certification

<p>Website Permissions</p>	<p>WIDA Secure Portal (portal.wida.us) WIDA Secure Portal accounts are created by the LEA EL Coordinators and/or District Test Coordinators for their staff.</p> <p>WIDA AMS (DRC) (wida-ams.us) WIDA AMS accounts are created by the LEA EL Coordinators and/or District Test Coordinators for their staff.</p>
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EL Program Requirements – Services & Support

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
<p>EL Services or Program Requirements</p>	<p>The state does not require a specific program type or amount of student support. The program must be highly effective in supporting student’s access to academic content and increasing language development through integrated and targeted English language development.</p> <p>Parent approval for program placement is not required. All parents must be notified of program type(s) and program placement.</p> <p>Student placement assessment scores are entered into a statewide English learner database.</p>
<p>Declining Services</p>	<p>Parents must decline services in writing.</p> <p>All parents declining services must be informed that the student will continue to take the ACCESS assessments each year until they meet statewide exit criteria.</p> <p>LEAs must monitor student progress and reach out to families annually to offer services after they have declined.</p>