

This document contains guidance on the identification and placement process for newly arrived English language 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 multilingual learner services. This document is updated each spring and throughout the year per SEA request.

For assessment questions, please contact Deann McManus. For inquiries related to state policy, please contact Susan Murphy or Elizabeth Supan.

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

Initial Assessment and Identification

Questions/Topic	State-specific Guidance
<p>Process Overview</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enrollment Survey (ES)/Home Language Survey (HLS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment Survey: The South Carolina Enrollment Survey (ES) consolidates identification tools for Title I, Part C Migrant Education, the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY), and Title III, Part A Multilingual Learner Program (MLP), and Immigrant Children and Youth. The HLS is embedded within the new South Carolina ES. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-State Transfers: Request the student file and South Carolina HLS from transferring school or district. The file should contain the original South Carolina HLS. Do not give another HLS; only the initial one. • Newly Enrolled/Out-of-State Transfers: Give HLS to newly enrolled students from Grades 3K/4K through Grade 12. 2. If a language other than English is identified on any of the three questions, the student is given the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, or Kindergarten MODEL (Kindergarten through first-semester 1st grade); WIDA Screener or WIDA MODEL (second-semester 1st grade through grade twelve).

Initial Assessment and Identification

	<p>* If the student is transferring from another WIDA state, screener scores or the most recent ACCESS for ELLs/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs scores may be used instead, as long as scores are from within the last year.</p> <p>3. Based on the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, Kindergarten MODEL, WIDA Screener, or WIDA MODEL results, students are provided English language development services and accommodations, or do not qualify.</p>
<p>Timelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the start of school, districts have 30 calendar days to complete ML identification testing and notify parents of services. • For students who have enrolled after the first 30 days of school, districts have fourteen calendar days to complete ML identification testing and notify parents of services. • Parent Notification Letters (PNLs) must be sent to parents in their preferred language of communication.
<p>Home Language Survey</p>	<p>South Carolina has a state-wide Home Language Survey (HLS) that is embedded within the Enrollment Survey (ES). The HLS must be completed for every student upon initial enrollment in a South Carolina school. The HLS must remain in the student’s permanent record and should not be purged. Only one HLS is to be on file for the student and it should be from initial enrollment in South Carolina. The HLS should be adequately explained to the parent/guardian upon completion and signed by both the parent/guardian, and the school personnel who explained the document. The HLS is a legal binding document and may not be changed or altered after completion without approval from the South Carolina Department of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-State Transfers: Request the student file and South Carolina HLS from transferring school or district. The file should contain the original South Carolina HLS. Do not give another HLS; only the initial one. • Newly Enrolled/Out-of-State Transfers: Give HLS to newly enrolled students.

Initial Assessment and Identification

<p>State Approved Assessments</p>	<p>The state-approved ML identification/placement assessments in SC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten: WIDA Screener for Kindergarten (Kindergarten through first-semester 1st grade) • Kindergarten: Kindergarten MODEL (Kindergarten through first-semester 1st grade) (LEAs pay for the cost of the Kindergarten MODEL, if used.) • Grades 1-12: WIDA Screener Online (second-semester 1st grade through grade twelve) • Grades 1-12: WIDA Screener Paper (second-semester 1st grade through grade twelve) (LEAs pay for the cost of the WIDA Screener Paper, if used.) • Grades 1-12: WIDA MODEL Online or WIDA MODEL Paper (second-semester 1st grade through grade twelve) (LEAs pay for the cost of the WIDA MODEL Online or Paper, if used.) <p>No other non-WIDA assessments are permissible in South Carolina at this time.</p>
<p>Paper Based Screener Costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If districts administer WIDA Screener Paper, Kindergarten MODEL, or WIDA MODEL Online or Paper, LEAs must pay for the screener’s cost. • Materials for the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten are available for download in the WIDA Secure Portal. LEAs have the option to purchase materials from the WIDA Store, however LEAs must pay for the cost of materials. • For more information and pricing, go to the WIDA Store.
<p>Identification/Placement Criteria</p>	<p>Exit Criteria:</p> <p>4.4 Overall Composite AND 4.0 on each domain on ACCESS for ELLs</p> <p>Identification Criteria:</p> <p>South Carolina has the following criteria for placement:</p>

Initial Assessment and Identification

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is administered to students in kindergarten through first-semester 1st grade. Visit the [WIDA Screener for Kindergarten webpage](#) to learn more about the assessment. The following table provides the administration details and ML identification criteria.

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Administration	Administered Domains			
	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
First-Semester Kindergarten	X		X	
ML Identification Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral Language score < 4.5, the student qualifies for ELD services. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details. Oral Language score ≥ 4.5, the student does not qualify for ELD services. This student is coded as an M1 (1st Year Monitor) in PowerSchool and is monitored for four years. 			
Second-Semester Kindergarten through First-Semester 1 st Grade	X	X	X	X
ML Identification Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student qualifies for ELD services if the Overall Composite score is < 4.4 OR any domain score is < 4.0. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details. Student does not qualify for ELD services if the Overall composite PL ≥ 4.4 AND all domain scores are ≥ 4.0. This student is coded as an 8 Never ML in PowerSchool. 			

Initial Assessment and Identification

Kindergarten MODEL

The Kindergarten MODEL can be administered to students in kindergarten through first-semester 1st grade. Visit the [Kindergarten MODEL webpage](#) to learn more about the assessment. The following table provides the administration details and MLL identification criteria.

Kindergarten MODEL Administration	Administered Domains			
	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
First-Semester Kindergarten	X		X	
ML Identification Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student qualifies for ELD services if the Oral Composite score < 4.4 OR Speaking or Listening domain scores are < 4.0. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details. The student does not qualify for ELD services if the Oral composite score is ≥ 4.4 AND Speaking and Listening domain scores are ≥ 4.0. This student is coded as an M1 1st Year Monitor in PowerSchool and is monitored for four years. 			
Second-Semester Kindergarten through First-Semester 1 st Grade	X	X	X	X
ML Identification Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student qualifies for ELD services if the Overall Composite score is < 4.4. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details. Student does not qualify for ELD services if the Overall composite PL ≥ 4.4 AND all domain scores are ≥ 4.0. This student is coded as an 8 Never ML in PowerSchool. 			

Initial Assessment and Identification

WIDA Screener and WIDA MODEL

All four domains of the WIDA Screener or WIDA MODEL should be administered to the student.

WIDA Screener or WIDA MODEL are administered to students in their second-semester of 1st grade through Grade 12. Administer the lower grade-level cluster form to students in the first-semester of the year in a new grade-level cluster. Learn more about these assessments on the [WIDA Screener webpage](#) or [WIDA MODEL webpage](#). The following table provides the administration details and ML identification criteria.

WIDA Screener and WIDA MODEL Administrations	Administered Domains			
	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
Second-Semester 1 st Grade through Grade 12	X	X	X	X
Student qualifies for ELD services if the Overall Composite score is < 4.4 OR any domain score is < 4.0. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details.	Student does not qualify for ELD services if the Overall composite score ≥ 4.4 AND all domain scores are ≥ 4.0. This student is coded as an 8 Never ML in PowerSchool.			
**Scores for the WIDA Screener and WIDA MODEL are comprised of the overall score AND all four domains.				

Other Useful Resources or Information

- New MLs are reported to the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Assessment and Standards, through the PowerSchool Database.
- Kindergarten MLs who do not initially qualify for the program in the first-semester of kindergarten are required to be monitored for a period of four years.
- MLs in all grades who have met the exit criteria on ACCESS for ELLs are required to be monitored for a period of four years.
- A screener should not be administered a second time for identification.
- If an ML does not receive a composite score, for example because they did not complete all four domains of ACCESS for ELLs, the WIDA Screener or WIDA MODEL must be administered to obtain a composite proficiency level.
- All WIDA (and SC) assessments are administered onsite and in a face-to-face setting. No virtual assessments are approved at this time. Please use the safety guidance provided from DHEC when administering in-person assessments.

Test Administrator Training and Certification

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance										
<p>Test Administrator Qualifications</p>	<p>Test Administrators (TA) must be certified teachers who have completed the relevant training and certification quizzes during the current academic year on the WIDA Secure Portal.</p> <p>District Test Coordinators (DTC) can determine if a TA who is not a certified teacher is qualified to administer the assessment. However, the TA must still complete all necessary training and complete the certification quizzes during the current academic year. If the TA is not a certified teacher or language specialist, it is highly recommended that they do not score any of the assessments locally. Any portion of the assessments that are scored locally should be done so by a trained Multilingual Learner Program Specialist/Teacher or other language acquisition specialist.</p>										
<p>Test Administrator Training Requirements</p>	<p>TAs must complete WIDA certification for the grade levels and assessments they will be administering. The SCDE requires annual training and certification to administer any of the WIDA Suite of Assessments. Please use the English Language Proficiency Test Administrator Training and Certification Requirements Document to see more details.</p> <p>To be certified to administer and score screeners, TAs must complete the applicable training and pass the certification quiz for:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="575 812 2028 1425"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="575 812 1184 886">English Language Proficiency (ELP) Screener</th> <th data-bbox="1184 812 2028 886">Name of Training Course</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="575 886 1184 997">WIDA Screener for Kindergarten</td> <td data-bbox="1184 886 2028 997">Training: WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Administration and Scoring (includes two quizzes: WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Oral Language and WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Literacy)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="575 997 1184 1068">WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten</td> <td data-bbox="1184 997 2028 1068">Training: All training is included in the kindergarten kit There is no certification quiz for WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="575 1068 1184 1321">WIDA Screener Online</td> <td data-bbox="1184 1068 2028 1321">Training: WIDA Screener Online: Administration training course If scoring, also complete: Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="575 1321 1184 1425">WIDA Screener Paper</td> <td data-bbox="1184 1321 2028 1425">Training: WIDA Screener Paper: Administration training course If scoring, also complete: Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	English Language Proficiency (ELP) Screener	Name of Training Course	WIDA Screener for Kindergarten	Training: WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Administration and Scoring (includes two quizzes: WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Oral Language and WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Literacy)	WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten	Training: All training is included in the kindergarten kit There is no certification quiz for WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten	WIDA Screener Online	Training: WIDA Screener Online: Administration training course If scoring, also complete: Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener	WIDA Screener Paper	Training: WIDA Screener Paper: Administration training course If scoring, also complete: Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener
English Language Proficiency (ELP) Screener	Name of Training Course										
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WIDA Screener Online	Training: WIDA Screener Online: Administration training course If scoring, also complete: Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener										
WIDA Screener Paper	Training: WIDA Screener Paper: Administration training course If scoring, also complete: Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener										

Test Administrator Training and Certification

		Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 1-5: Scoring WIDA Screener Writing for Grades 6-12: Scoring WIDA Screener
	WIDA MODEL Online	Training: All training is included in the online interface (TAI) There is no certification quiz for WIDA MODEL
	WIDA MODEL Paper	Training: All training is included in the paper kit There is no certification quiz for WIDA MODEL
Website Permissions	If you do not have an account, please contact your District Test Coordinator (DTC). WIDA Secure Portal (portal.wida.us) for training: Test Administrators should contact their District Test Coordinator for access to training materials. WIDA AMS (DRC) (wida-ams.us) Educator Scoring for WIDA Screener: Test Administrators scoring the WIDA Screener should contact their District Test Coordinator for permissions.	

MLL Program Requirements – Services & Support

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
ML Services or Program Requirements	<p>Every LEA in South Carolina that receives Title III funds must develop and implement a comprehensive plan for serving immigrant children and youth and students who are identified as Multilingual Learners. South Carolina has determined an approved list of Program Service Delivery Models (PSDM) for MLs. LEAs are responsible for determining how to best serve MLs using this approved list.</p> <p>South Carolina Approved Program Service Delivery Models:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull-Out • Class period • Push-in • Co-teaching • Consultative • MLP Newcomer – Program • Sheltered Content-based instruction • Dual-Language Immersion • Monitored (M1 – M4) • Waived • PK Receiving services
Declining Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents must sign a waiver annually if they decline ELD services for their child. • A waiver only exempts a student from receiving direct ELD services. • Students must continue to take ACCESS for ELLs each year until they meet the state exit criteria and no longer require services, including students who have waived ELD services. • MLs with a waiver may still receive classroom and testing accommodations as needed and should be serviced through the consultative Program Service Delivery Models (PSDM). These students may have an Individualized Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP) that states the classroom and testing accommodations (if applicable). • The “Waived” checkbox in PowerSchool needs to be checked if a waiver has been provided. This checkbox will be cleared at the end of each school year.