

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 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.**

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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](mailto:help@wida.us) or (866) 276-7735.

### Initial Assessment and Identification

Questions/Topic	State-specific Guidance
<b>Process Overview</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enrollment Survey (ES)/Home Language Survey (HLS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enrollment Survey:</b> 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"> <li>• <b>In-State Transfers:</b> 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 <b>initial</b> one.</li> <li>• <b>Newly Enrolled/Out-of-State Transfers:</b> Give HLS to newly enrolled students from Grades 3K/4K through Grade 12.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>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 1<sup>st</sup> grade); WIDA Screener or WIDA MODEL (second-semester 1<sup>st</sup> grade through grade twelve). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 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.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<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><b>Timelines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the start of school, districts have 30 calendar days to complete ML identification testing and notify parents of services.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Parent Notification Letters (PNLs) must be sent to parents in their preferred language of communication.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Home Language Survey</b></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 <b>initial</b> 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"> <li>• <b>In-State Transfers:</b> 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 <b>initial</b> one.</li> <li>• <b>Newly Enrolled/Out-of-State Transfers:</b> Give HLS to newly enrolled students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>State Approved Assessments</b></p>	<p>The state-approved ML <b>identification/placement assessments</b> in SC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten: <b>WIDA Screener for Kindergarten</b> (Kindergarten through first-semester 1<sup>st</sup> grade)</li> <li>• Kindergarten: <b>Kindergarten MODEL</b> (Kindergarten through first-semester 1<sup>st</sup> grade) (LEAs pay for the cost of the Kindergarten MODEL, if used.)</li> <li>• Grades 1-12: <b>WIDA Screener Online</b> (second-semester 1<sup>st</sup> grade through grade twelve)</li> <li>• Grades 1-12: <b>WIDA Screener Paper</b> (second-semester 1<sup>st</sup> grade through grade twelve) (LEAs pay for the cost of the WIDA Screener Paper, if used.)</li> <li>• Grades 1-12: <b>WIDA MODEL Online or WIDA MODEL Paper</b> (second-semester 1<sup>st</sup> grade through grade twelve) (LEAs pay for the cost of the WIDA MODEL Online or Paper, if used.)</li> <li>• <b>No other non-WIDA assessments are permissible in South Carolina at this time.</b></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Paper Based Screener Costs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If districts administer WIDA Screener Paper, Kindergarten MODEL, or WIDA MODEL Online or Paper, LEAs must pay for the screener’s cost.</li> <li>• 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 <a href="#">WIDA Store</a>, however LEAs must pay for the cost of materials.</li> <li>• For more information and pricing, go to the <a href="#">WIDA Store</a>.</li> </ul>																			
<p><b>Identification/Placement Criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Exit Criteria:</b></p> <p>4.4 Overall Composite <b>AND</b> 4.0 on each domain on ACCESS for ELLs</p> <hr/> <p><b>Identification Criteria:</b></p> <p>South Carolina has the following criteria for placement:</p> <p><b>WIDA Screener for Kindergarten</b></p> <p>The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is administered to students in kindergarten through first-semester 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Visit the <a href="#">WIDA Screener for Kindergarten webpage</a> to learn more about the assessment. The following table provides the administration details and ML identification criteria.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="674 1000 1913 1369"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Administration</th> <th colspan="4">Administered Domains</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Listening</th> <th>Reading</th> <th>Speaking</th> <th>Writing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First-Semester Kindergarten</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ML Identification Criteria</td> <td colspan="4"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral Language score &lt; 4.5, the student <b>qualifies</b> for ELD services. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details.</li> <li>• Oral Language score ≥ 4.5, the student <b>does not qualify</b> for ELD services. This student is coded as an M1 (1<sup>st</sup> Year Monitor) in PowerSchool and is monitored for four years.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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"> <li>• Oral Language score &lt; 4.5, the student <b>qualifies</b> for ELD services. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details.</li> <li>• Oral Language score ≥ 4.5, the student <b>does not qualify</b> for ELD services. This student is coded as an M1 (1<sup>st</sup> Year Monitor) in PowerSchool and is monitored for four years.</li> </ul>			
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Initial Assessment and Identification

<b>Second-Semester Kindergarten through First-Semester 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
ML Identification Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student <b>qualifies</b> for ELD services if the Overall Composite score is &lt; 4.4 <b>OR</b> any domain score is &lt; 4.0. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details.</li> <li>• Student <b>does not qualify</b> for ELD services if the Overall composite PL ≥ 4.4 <b>AND all</b> domain scores are ≥ 4.0. This student is coded as an 8 Never ML in PowerSchool.</li> </ul>			

**Kindergarten MODEL**

The Kindergarten MODEL can be administered to students in kindergarten through first-semester 1<sup>st</sup> 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	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
ML Identification Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student <b>qualifies</b> for ELD services if the Oral Composite score &lt; 4.4 <b>OR</b> Speaking or Listening domain scores are &lt; 4.0. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details.</li> <li>• The student <b>does not qualify</b> for ELD services if the Oral composite score is ≥ 4.4 <b>AND</b> Speaking and Listening domain scores are ≥ 4.0. This student is coded as an M1 1<sup>st</sup> Year Monitor in PowerSchool and is monitored for four years.</li> </ul>			

Initial Assessment and Identification

<b>Second-Semester Kindergarten through First-Semester 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
ML Identification Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student <b>qualifies</b> for ELD services if the Overall Composite score is &lt; 4.4. This student is coded based on their composite score. Please see the PowerSchool Coding Matrix for more details.</li> <li>• Student <b>does not qualify</b> for ELD services if the Overall composite PL ≥ 4.4 <b>AND all</b> domain scores are ≥ 4.0. This student is coded as an 8 Never ML in PowerSchool.</li> </ul>			

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Grade through Grade 12	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Student <b>qualifies</b> for ELD services if the Overall Composite score is < 4.4 <b>OR</b> 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 <b>does not qualify</b> for ELD services if the Overall composite score ≥ 4.4 <b>AND all</b> 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 <b>AND all</b> four domains.				

## Initial Assessment and Identification

**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><b>Test Administrator Qualifications</b></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 <a href="#">WIDA Secure Portal</a>.</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><b>Test Administrator Training Requirements</b></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 <a href="#">English Language Proficiency Test Administrator Training and Certification Requirements</a> Document to see more details.</p> <p><b>New for 2024-25: WIDA Screener training courses will be available on the WIDA Secure Portal July 1, 2024.</b></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="575 881 2024 1417"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="575 881 1178 956">English Language Proficiency (ELP) Screener</th> <th data-bbox="1178 881 2024 956">Name of Training Course</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="575 956 1178 1065"><b>WIDA Screener for Kindergarten</b></td> <td data-bbox="1178 956 2024 1065"><b>Training:</b> 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 1065 1178 1140"><b>WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten</b></td> <td data-bbox="1178 1065 2024 1140"><b>Training:</b> 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 1140 1178 1417"><b>WIDA Screener Online</b></td> <td data-bbox="1178 1140 2024 1417"><b>Training:</b> WIDA Screener Online: Administration training course <b>If scoring, also complete:</b> 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> </tbody> </table>	English Language Proficiency (ELP) Screener	Name of Training Course	<b>WIDA Screener for Kindergarten</b>	<b>Training:</b> WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Administration and Scoring (includes two quizzes: WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Oral Language and WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Literacy)	<b>WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten</b>	<b>Training:</b> All training is included in the kindergarten kit There is no certification quiz for WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten	<b>WIDA Screener Online</b>	<b>Training:</b> WIDA Screener Online: Administration training course <b>If scoring, also complete:</b> 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
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Test Administrator Training and Certification

	<p><b>WIDA Screener Paper</b></p>	<p><b>Training:</b> WIDA Screener Paper: Administration training course  <b>If scoring, also complete:</b>                  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</p>
	<p><b>WIDA MODEL Online</b></p>	<p><b>Training:</b> All training is included in the online interface (TAI)                  There is no certification quiz for WIDA MODEL</p>
	<p><b>WIDA MODEL Paper</b></p>	<p><b>Training:</b> All training is included in the paper kit                  There is no certification quiz for WIDA MODEL</p>
<p><b>Website Permissions</b></p>	<p>If you do not have an account, please contact your District Test Coordinator (DTC).</p> <p><b>WIDA Secure Portal</b> (<a href="https://portal.wida.us">portal.wida.us</a>) for training:                  Test Administrators should contact their District Test Coordinator for access to training materials.</p> <p><b>WIDA AMS (DRC)</b> (<a href="https://wida-ams.us">wida-ams.us</a>) Educator Scoring for WIDA Screener:                  Test Administrators scoring the WIDA Screener should contact their District Test Coordinator for permissions.</p>	



ML Program Requirements – Services & Support

Question/Topic	State-specific Guidance
<p><b>ML Services or Program Requirements</b></p>	<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"> <li>• Pull-Out</li> <li>• Class period</li> <li>• Push-in</li> <li>• Co-teaching</li> <li>• Consultative</li> <li>• MLP Newcomer – Program</li> <li>• Sheltered Content-based instruction</li> <li>• Dual-Language Immersion</li> <li>• Monitored (M1 – M4)</li> <li>• Waived</li> <li>• PK Receiving services</li> </ul>
<p><b>Declining Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents must sign a waiver annually if they decline ELD services for their child.</li> <li>• A waiver only exempts a student from receiving direct ELD services.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>