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Machine-generated Transcripts

Please note that the transcripts of videos in this event are machine-generated; generally the accuracy rate will be about 70-80%. See the WIDA Accessibility Statement on the WIDA Policies Page for more information. Contact the WIDA Client Services Center at 1-866-276-7735 or email help@wida.us if you have an accommodation need or have questions.

At WIDA, we build tests with students' best interests at heart. As educators and administrators who interpret and use student test scores, you too play a critical role. Your decisions help ensure testing leads to positive outcomes for your districts, for your schools, and especially for your students. WIDA's test development work is the foundation of a valid and reliable measurement of students' English language proficiency. WIDA test developers follow rigorous processes and rely on educator input to create content that is grounded in WIDA's English Language Development Standards Framework aligned with current classroom teaching practices and free of bias towards any subgroup of students.

WIDA resources detail the test administration and scoring practices that give each student a standard equitable testing experience. Valid scores depend on a rigorous testing process. In other words, scores can only be meaningful if tests are administered properly and decisions are based on testing that reflect an accurate understanding of what scores mean. Plan ahead for a successful testing process. Careful scheduling, thoroughly vetted technology. Robust training and clear continuous communication are all critical elements of an effective testing strategy. Next, take time to learn about scores. WIDA resources explain what scores show about student progress in building English language skills. These resources also help you gain a full appreciation of what scores cannot tell you.

Remember, English language proficiency testing doesn't measure academic content knowledge or English language arts skills. It isn't designed to help you understand students' learning challenges or readiness for advanced academic work. WIDA tests cannot help you evaluate teaching performance. Consider carefully how test scores can inform instruction and program development.

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Analyze scores along with other evidence of students' language skills such as classroom performance and educator observations. Use this information to tailor the instructional support students receive as their language skills increase. WIDA resources can help you keep students, their families and content teachers informed about what students can do and how they can continue to develop language proficiency. A thorough, nuanced understanding of scores is the basis of well-informed identification of new incoming English learners, placement of English learners into appropriate language instruction programs and reclassification of English learners once they achieve English language proficiency.

In the end, students receive appropriate language instruction and support. Furthermore, students, their families, and you have a better understanding of each student's language Proficiency development states define the scores that guide the assignment of English learner status. Applying this guidance consistently is a vital component of educational equity. When you fully understand what you can learn from testing, you can make informed decisions with students' best interests at heart.

You play a critical role in ensuring adherence to the testing process. WIDA describes. You have the resources you need to build your understanding of what test scores can tell you. Your effort can ensure scores are used appropriately to guide programming and placement decisions that result in positive student outcomes.