WIDA SCREENER
Interpretive Guide for Score Reports

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten
WIDA Screener Paper
WIDA Screener Online

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT SCORES

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WIDA Screener for Grades 1 to 12

WIDA Screener is an English language proficiency assessment given to incoming students in grade 1 through grade 12. It is available in two delivery modes: online, and pencil and paper. There is also a separate WIDA Screener for Kindergarten that is only offered as a pencil and paper test. In this document, WIDA Screener refers only to the grade 1-12 test. (WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is always called by its full name, and is dealt with separately in the final section.)

Students who take WIDA Screener complete four domain tests (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing). Test scores are used to assist educators in identifying students as English language learners (ELLs); the purpose of this assessment is to help educators make decisions about whether a student is a candidate for English language support services. WIDA Screener is not intended for use as a summative or diagnostic assessment. In this document, unless otherwise specified, "WIDA Screener" refers to both WIDA Screener Online and WIDA Screener Paper.

Understanding Scores

How Scores are Calculated

For both test modes, scores are calculated the same way. They begin as raw scores; that is, the number of items correct (for Listening and Reading) or the initial rating (for Speaking and Writing). In WIDA Screener Online, Listening and Reading domain raw scores are automatically calculated as the student takes the test. In WIDA Screener Paper, school or district staff (referred to as "local raters" in this document) use the answer sheet to score and calculate the number of correct answers in the Listening and Reading domains. For the Speaking and Writing tests in both delivery modes, local raters assess student performance using the WIDA Screener Scoring Scales. Students taking WIDA Screener Online have their Speaking and Writing scores entered into the WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS). This platform calculates the Speaking and Writing raw and composite scores and allows educators to generate and download the score report. For students taking WIDA Screener Paper, the local raters enter all four raw domain scores into the WIDA Screener Score Calculator, which calculates the domain and composite scores. Educators can then generate and download the score report.

Raw scores do not account for test difficulty, so they are converted to scale scores using statistical measures, which do account for test difficulty, even across grade levels. To provide additional context and scores that can be more easily interpreted and understood, scale scores are converted into proficiency levels (PLs). This is done through standard setting, in which a panel of experts reach consensus on the range of scale scores that describes proficiency level 1 for a given grade, what range of scale scores describes proficiency level 2 for that grade, and so on. The scale scores that mark where one proficiency level ends and the next begins are referred to as cut scores. WIDA Screener uses the same proficiency level cut scores as ACCESS for ELLs.

The expert judgments made at standard setting are used to define the proficiency levels for every single grade, not just grade clusters. Note that while the Writing scores assigned by local raters may appear to be proficiency levels, they are actually raw scores and go through the same conversion process as the other three domains.

Proficiency levels are reported from 1 to 6 and may be interpreted by using the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards and WIDA Can Do Descriptors. Both of these documents

provide detailed information about the expected abilities of students who have attained particular proficiency level scores.

Reported Scores

Proficiency level scores for WIDA Screener are reported for each of the four domains, Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. Three composite scores, Oral Language, Literacy, and Overall, are also reported. The Overall score is the most useful score to use when making identification decisions, because it takes the student's performance on all four domains into account. This is the score WIDA recommends for decision-making purposes.

WIDA Screener composite scores are calculated using one or more of the domain scores, in the same way that they are calculated for ACCESS for ELLs.

Figure 1: Composite score contributions

TYPE OF COMPOSITE SCORE	PERCENT CONTRIBUTION OF LISTENING	PERCENT CONTRIBUTION OF SPEAKING	PERCENT CONTRIBUTION OF READING	PERCENT CONTRIBUTION OF WRITING
ORAL LANGUAGE	50%	50%	–	–
LITERACY	–	–	50%	50%
OVERALL	15%	15%	35%	35%

Language domain scores are reported as integers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

Composite scores are reported as either integers or 0.5 increments between integers: 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5, or 6.

Rounding

WIDA Screener reported proficiency level scores are rounded down in each of the four domains. This is done because the proficiency level reported is meant to tell what the student can do. Rounding up, even slightly, would be implying that the student can do more than they have demonstrated on the test.

Whole numbers are used for the domain test scores because each one is relatively short. The number of questions and tasks within each WIDA Screener domain test can meaningfully support the reporting of integer proficiency level scores.

However, composite scores are rounded down to the nearest half number (0.5). They are rounded down for the same reason as domain scores. As compositive scores are calculated from students' performances on two or more domains of the assessment, there are more data points informing these scores than the proficiency level scores. Therefore, the composite score can be more nuanced than the domain scores.

Because of the rounding rules, reported composite scores may sometimes be higher than reported domain scores.

Figure 2: Examples of rounded scores

	ROUNDED/REPORTED	ATTAINED (BEFORE ROUNDING)
LISTENING	2	2.9
SPEAKING	2	2.7
ORAL LANGUAGE	2.5	2.8

Incomplete or Blank Tests

To receive all possible domain and composite scores, students must take all four domains of WIDA Screener. If a score is simply not entered, such as into the Paper Screener calculator, relevant fields will be blank.

Score Caps

Students who take the WIDA Screener Online lower track receive only Tier A items and tasks (see the Test Administration Manual for further details) and as a result they cannot score above PL 4.0 in any domain. These students' composite scores are also capped at PL 4.0.

Students who take WIDA Screener Paper lower track (Path B) cannot score above PL 4.0 in the Listening and Reading domains. Students taking Path B complete only very brief Speaking and Writing tasks (see the Test Administration Manual for further details) and they cannot score above PL 1.0 in the Speaking and Writing domains. These students' composite scores are capped at PL 1.5.

WIDA Screener Score Reports

The WIDA Screener Score Reports for both WIDA Screener Online and WIDA Screener Paper include demographic information about the student, and proficiency levels for each of the four domains. They also include three composite scores: Oral Language, Literacy, and Overall score.

For the WIDA Screener Online, the demographic information shown is what was entered into WIDA AMS. For WIDA Screener Paper, the demographic information is entered when inputting scores into the WIDA Screener Score Calculator, and can be viewed by selecting the "Printer Friendly Version." A sample score report for WIDA Screener Online is included, followed by a sample of the WIDA Screener Paper Score Report.

How to Use the Score Reports

WIDA Screener is intended to be used as one element in the decision-making process of identifying a student as an ELL. This decision should ideally be supported by additional evidence, such as language of previous schooling, recommendations from previous teachers, the child's home language survey, or any of the recommended or required criteria as determined by the state or district.

WIDA recommends using the Overall Score for decision-making purposes because it is the only score to include the student's performance on all four domains. That said, considering the profile of the student's performance created by all of the scores can be helpful to form a balanced view of the student's strengths and needs. The specific WIDA Screener scores used in identification decisions are determined by your state.

WIDA Screener Online

Score Report

Test Date: 09/29/2021   Test Administrator/Scorer:

Student Information

First Name: Student   Last Name: Name 4

Birthdate: 05/05/2011   Current Grade: 05

State ID: 3456546880   School: WIDA Demo School 1

District: WIDA Demo District 1   State: ST

Home Language(s):

This report provides information about the student's scores on the WIDA Screener Online. The assessment is designed to provide a snapshot of an English language learner's general English language proficiency. This test is based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards and is used as one criterion to determine a student's eligibility for English language services. Please refer to state policy for making decisions about a student's eligibility for English language services.

Scores are reported as language proficiency levels. Proficiency levels (PLs) are reported as whole numbers for the language domain scores and the composite scores are reported to the whole PL or half PL.

Language Domain Scores	Proficiency Level
Listening	4.0
Speaking	2.0
Reading	3.0
Writing	3.0
Composite Scores	**Proficiency Level**
Oral Language	3.0
Literacy	3.5
Overall*	3.0

*Overall composite score is calculated only when all four domains have been assessed.

WIDA Screener Paper Score Report

**WIDA Screener
Score Report**

Test Date: 12/4/2017   Test Administrator/Scorer:

Student Information

First Name: Last Name:

Birthdate: Current
Grade:

State ID: School:

District: State:

Home Language(s):

This report provides information about the student's scores on the WIDA Screener. The WIDA Screener is designed to provide a snapshot of an English Language Learner's general English language proficiency. This test is based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards and is used to determine a student's eligibility for English Language services. Please refer to state policy for making decisions about a student's eligibility for English Language services.

Scores are reported as Language Proficiency Levels. Proficiency levels are only reported as whole numbers and the composites are rounded to the nearest PL or half PL.

Language Domain Scores	Proficiency Level
Listening	2
Reading	2
Writing	2
Speaking	3
Composite Scores	**Proficiency Level**
Oral Language	3
Literacy	2.5
Overall*	3

*Overall score is calculated only when all four domains have been assessed NA: Not attempted

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is an English language proficiency assessment given to incoming students in kindergarten and grade 1 (up to the end of the first semester only for first grade). The test is only available in the pencil and paper delivery mode. Students who take WIDA Screener for Kindergarten complete either two domains (Listening and Speaking), or all four domain tests (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing) based on state policy. The purpose of the assessment is to identify students who would benefit from English language support services.

Understanding Scores

How Scores are Calculated

Local raters use the score sheet to score and add up the number of correct Listening and Reading answers. Local raters also score the Speaking and Writing tests using the WIDA Speaking and Writing Rubrics for Kindergarten. All raw domain scores (for either two domains or four domains) are entered into the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Score Calculator, which calculates the relevant domain and composite scores. Educators can generate and download the score report.

Reported Scores

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten reports scores based on whether two domains or four domains are administered. If four domains are administered, students receive scores as for the WIDA Screener for grades 1 to 12, described previously in this document. If only two domains (Listening and Speaking) are administered, students will receive the following scores:

- Listening domain score

- Speaking domain score

- Oral Language composite score

Score Caps

There are no score caps applied to any domain test on WIDA Screener for Kindergarten. Students may score up to proficiency level 6 on all domains and composite scores.

How to Use the Score Reports

WIDA recommends using the composite scores for decision-making purposes (to identify English language learners). If four domains have been administered, WIDA recommends using the Overall score for decision-making purposes. If two domains have been administered, WIDA recommends using the Oral Language score for decision-making purposes. The specific WIDA for Kindergarten Screener scores used in identification are determined at the state level.