

WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12)

Quick Guide



Assessing English Language Proficiency

Accurate identification of Multilingual Learners (MLs) helps ensure Colorado districts and schools* provide a comprehensive English language acquisition program (s) best designed to meet the needs of its students. The WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12) is designed to provide an initial measure of a student's academic English Language Proficiency (ELP). Following [Standardized Identification Procedures](#), this assessment is administered to potential MLs who are enrolled in second semester first graders through grade 12 students to assist educators in identifying students who are eligible for Language Instruction Educational Programs (LIEPs)**.

WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12) Features

- ❖ Paper or online test available during student enrollment
- ❖ Estimated test administration time is 80-85 minutes
- ❖ Student and TA materials can be downloaded (print in color & double sided is recommended) at no cost from the WIDA Secure Portal or can be purchased through the [WIDA Store](#)
- ❖ Screener Paper test domains are administered and scored locally by trained raters. Listening and Speaking domains are media-delivered
- ❖ The Screener Online test platform automatically scores the Listening and Reading domains during administration. A trained local rater scores the Speaking and Writing domains

For Test Administrators:

- Obtain a WIDA Secure Portal Account from the District Assessment Coordinator
- Read the WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12) Test Administrator Manual (TAM)
- Read the Accessibility & Accommodations Manual
- Complete Online Training Courses
- Pass (80%) Certification Quizzes prior to administering or scoring the test

Accessibility & Accommodations

Follow guidelines on how to best support students taking WIDA Screener found in the [Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) and the Blind/Visually Impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Administration Guidance. These manuals help educators, and IEP/504 Plan Teams understand and use the test administration considerations, universal tools, and accommodations to produce valid assessment results for students.

Test Administrator's Training Requirements

Test Administrators (TAs) are required to complete the appropriate training courses prior to administering or scoring. Training modules can be found by logging into the [WIDA Secure Portal](#). In the portal, select Assessment Training then, find the WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12): choose online or paper Administration and Scoring courses and click on Course Details. TAs currently certified to administer and score ACCESS Paper Speaking test are not required to take Speaking Certification (ACCESS and Screener Grades 1-12 use the same speaking certification quizzes). The Colorado Department of Education recommends TAs fully re-certify every two years. If there is a district or school requirement to recertify yearly, educators administering or scoring Screener assessments must comply with local policy.

**In this document, the term "district and school" references any public local educational agency, the State Charter School Institute, as well as, public facility, online, and charter schools (Title 22, C.R.S. 22-1-101).*

*** New ML Enrollment guidance was released at the beginning of SY25-26, review this information starting on page 5 of the standardized identification procedure document prior to assessing students with current year ACCESS scores seen in CEDAR/COGNOS ML Historical data reports.*

Grade Level Administration

Grade	K	1 st		2 nd		3 rd		4 th		5 th		6 th		7 th		8 th		9 th		10 th		11 th		12 th	
Semester	All	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd
Grade Cluster Form	Screener for Kindergarten	Screener for Kindergarten	1 Test	2-3 Test				4-5 Test				6-8 Test				9-12 Test									

Test Administration

Given at student enrollment, anytime during the school year, WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12) is an English language proficiency assessment that measures language development in the domains of listening, speaking, writing, and reading. It measures the student's ability to comprehend and communicate in English. Cut points guide educators in making NEP, LEP and Primary Home Language Other Than English (PHLOTE) determinations. Following the [Colorado Standardized Identification](#) procedures, WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12) scores **and** a Body of Evidence (BOE) must be used when making initial identification and programming decisions.

First Grade Second Semester through Grade 12

NEP: 1.0 – 2.4 (Overall)

LEP: 2.5 - 3.9 (Overall)

PHLOTE: > 4.0 (Overall & Literacy)

Body of Evidence is student level data that demonstrates student's language proficiency. Educators who are responsible for collecting and evaluating local BOE must use cut scores/scoring rubrics that clearly show criteria for determining student's ELP level on various pieces of evidence. Examples of BOE include but are not limited to: responses provided during family interviews, student academic records, classroom observations, professional judgments from the SpEd, MTSS or other teams, previous student data available in CEDAR/COGNOS, and/or local or district and school assessments.

Score Calculator & Score Reports

Proficiency level scores for WIDA Screener are reported for each of the four domains and include 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. Educators and TAs locally assess student performance using the WIDA Screener Scoring Scales for Speaking and Writing tests in both delivery modes. For more explanation about scores, proficiency levels, and how they can be used, refer to the [WIDA Screener Interpretive Guide](#). Explore the [Family Engagement](#) webpage to view resources or for ideas on how to share information about language testing and test scores with families.

WIDA Screener Online: DRC app and student test ticket required, educators and TAs enter Speaking and Writing scores into the [WIDA Assessment Management System](#) (AMS). This platform calculates domain, composite and proficiency level scores and allows educators to generate and download the score report.

WIDA Screener Paper: USB and student response booklet required, educators and TAs enter all four raw domain scores into the [WIDA Screener Paper Score Calculator](#). It calculates domain, composite and proficiency level scores and allows educators to generate and download the score report.

Districts and schools are strongly encouraged to review and comply with student data retention security and [privacy policies](#). The [School District Records Management Manual](#) in the Colorado State Archives outlines procedures to securely store paper test kits and records/score reports and other relevant documentation used to identify multilingual learners.

As provided under SB21-268 and beginning with fiscal year 2021-2022, the English Language Learner funding factor will be included in the calculated total program funding for each district and school. Compliance audits including a review of documentation require districts and schools to retain WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12) score reports following guidance found in the [English Language Learner Count Audit Resource Guide](#).