



**What is the purpose of WIDA Screener?**

The WIDA Screener’s purpose is to provide information about a student’s English language proficiency that can be used as one criterion in determining a student’s eligibility for English language support services.

**What elements do WIDA Screener Online and WIDA Screener Paper have in common? How are they different?**

WIDA Screener Online and Paper share the same grade clusters, items, local scoring , scoring training, scale, proficiency levels and online score calculator. The only major difference is that students who take the test online record their Speaking responses, which are later retrieved and scored locally. Students who take the paper-based test usually do not record their responses so the test administrator rates the Speaking responses in real time.

**What are some considerations to help in determining which mode of the test to administer?**

Possible reasons for selecting each mode of WIDA Screener	
Online	Paper
Available computer with test software	No computers or test software available
Screening multiple students at once	Individual administration guided by Test Administrator
For students familiar and comfortable with technology/computers	For children unfamiliar or uncomfortable with technology/computers
When trained Speaking raters are not available to administer the Speaking test	With trained Speaking raters available to administer
Productive responses are scored centrally or by specifically designated raters	If scores are needed within minutes of the child taking the test

**Why was WIDA Screener developed?**

WIDA Screener was originally conceived to address the following needs:

- To replace the outdated W-APT, which was developed in 2004, based on the 2004 edition of the WIDA ELP standards
- To create a screener that aligns to current ELD standards, corresponds to CCSS, and reflects advances in understanding the uses of academic language and how to assess them
- To create a screener that aligns with the content, design and construct of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
- To offer a screener online to compliment ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online and with the advantages online assessment AND offer a parallel paper-based screener
- To provide a screener that targets the high end of the proficiency scale to better inform high stakes eligibility decision-making, but that also has an option for beginning English learners
- To provide a screener that does not take a child more than hour to complete
- To provide comprehensive training for Test Administrators
- To provide comprehensive training for Speaking and Writing raters that is also an enriching professional learning opportunity
- To create a screener that is valid and highly reliable for its intended purposes
- To provide a screener option within the MOU’s per pupil cost for ACCESS for ELLs that would not significantly drive up costs (i.e., provide the Screener for “free”).



### **How was the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 summative assessment development process maximized to create WIDA Screener?**

WIDA created the WIDA Screener Online based on the design of ACCESS 2.0 with items that were field tested at the same time and on the same platform with ACCESS 2.0 items. The paper-based version of Screener was created and then piloted with the same items that appear on WIDA Screener Online.

### **What criteria were used to guide test development and implementation decisions at WIDA?**

Two key concerns remained top priority throughout the design and development processes and WIDA Screener's introduction to the field: (1) It needed to be user friendly, especially for the test takers; and (2) It needed to be affordable.

Some of the decisions made to address the first concern include the shortest possible administration time that still yields highly reliable information on which to base high-stakes decisions, color graphics, two paths (high proficiency and low proficiency), and a single test ticket (for Online).

To make the Screener affordable, WIDA negotiated with DRC to include the Screener Online for minimal additional costs, but with few additional tools beyond what is critical to administer and score each test. It was not possible to fully customize the platform for identification/placement testing without adding significant cost, but gradual enhancements may occur in time.

Furthermore, in order to provide Screener Paper, WIDA worked with WCEPS, who manages the WIDA Store, to provide printing and distribution of the Screener Paper reusable booklets and materials for little above cost. WIDA cannot provide all printed materials for consortium members as part of the "core package" without significantly driving up costs to the whole consortium. WIDA does, however, provide all consumable materials (i.e., Student Response Booklets) as downloadable for free from the WIDA website. These materials were designed to be printed in black and white/grayscale if printing in color is not possible. The materials ordered through the WIDA Store are designed and produced to be reused multiple times.

### **What efforts might be made in the future to enhance WIDA Screener?**

Possibilities for future investment in Screener include:

- More comprehensive data management and reporting systems
- Quicker access to students' Speaking and Writing responses for scoring (Online)
- Item refreshment
- Development of a new Kindergarten screener
- Development of screening materials for students with known disabilities
- And more, according to the consortium's priorities and in response to feedback!