

WIDA

Assessing English Language Proficiency



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WIDA Assessment Specialists

<https://tinyurl.com/2026ACCESSUT>



WIDA™



Contact Information:

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WIDA ACCESS – New ADs

- Learning Intention – New ADs will learn about WIDA Assessment requirements, particularly WIDA ACCESS for EL measuring growth and proficiency.
- Rationale – In order to ensure the AD's LEA is following the law as it relates to ELs ...
- Success Criteria -
 - By accessing the two necessary WIDA accounts,
 - By understanding where to access necessary resources, and
 - By understanding the process for measuring EL growth and proficiency in Utah.

WIDA Acronyms

1. WIDA - Just WIDA . . .
2. EL - English Learner (legal)
3. ML - Multilingual Learner (preferred)
4. AD - Assessment Director
5. ALS - Alternative Language Services
6. ACCESS - Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State . . . Just ACCESS
7. WIDA AMS (DRC) - Assessment Management System run by Data Recognition Corporation
8. LEA - Local Education Agency (you district or charter)
9. UTREx Pre-ID file - Utah eTranscript and Record Exchange for Pre-Identification file
10. ELP - English Language Proficiency

WIDA Tips:

As ADs, **you** will need to communicate with the following colleagues:

- **ALS/Title III**– who will oversee WIDA assessments?
- **Technology Coordinator** – Who will install student and test administrator technology and on what devices?
- **Administrators** – When and where will testing be completed and ensure students have equitable opportunities to engage in testing?
- **Special Education Director** – How will accommodations be communicated and WIDA Alternate ACCESS participants and administration be handled?

Resources:

- [USBE WIDA Website](#)
- [USBE Title III Website](#)
- [Utah WIDA Website](#)
- [WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#)

WIDA Assessments:

WIDA Screener

- Screener Online 1-12 (WIDA AMS)
- Screener for Kindergarten and Alternate Screener K-12 (Available on WIDA Secure Portal)

Available year-round starting July 1, 2026



WIDA ACCESS

- ACCESS Online (WIDA AMS)
- Kindergarten ACCESS (Paper, ordered by USBE)

Testing Window:
January 5, 2027 to
March 5, 2027



Alternate ACCESS

- Alternate ACCESS for ELs with the most significant cognitive disabilities (Paper, ordered by LEA).

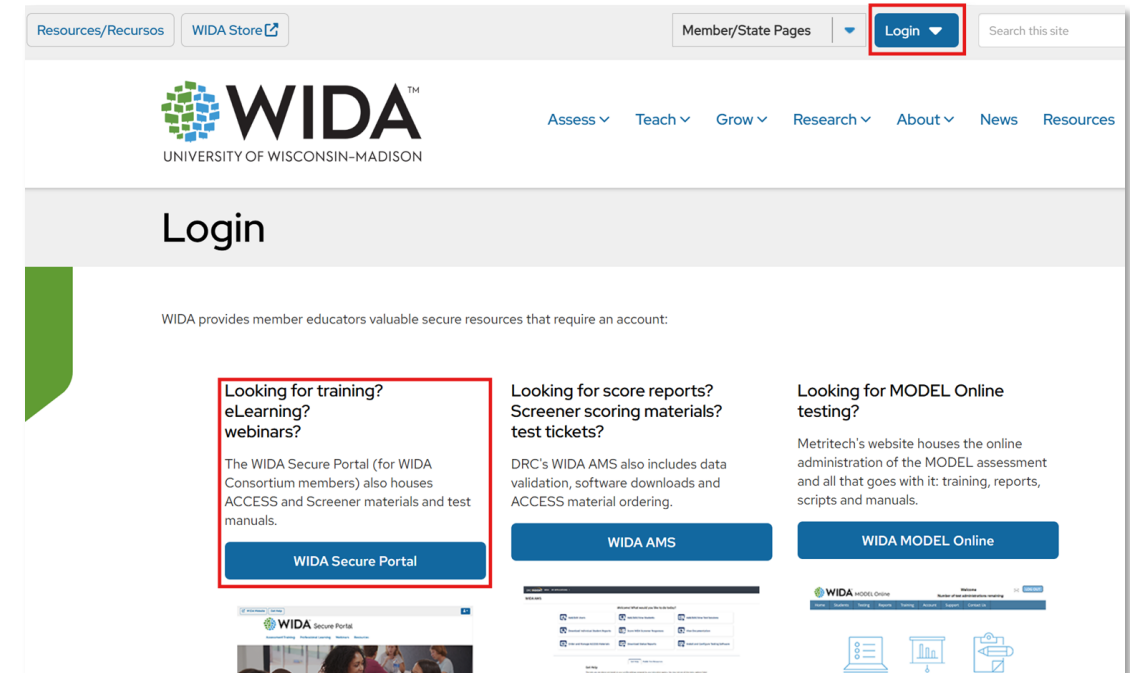
Testing Window:
January 5, 2027 to
March 5, 2027

WIDA Secure Portal Accounts:



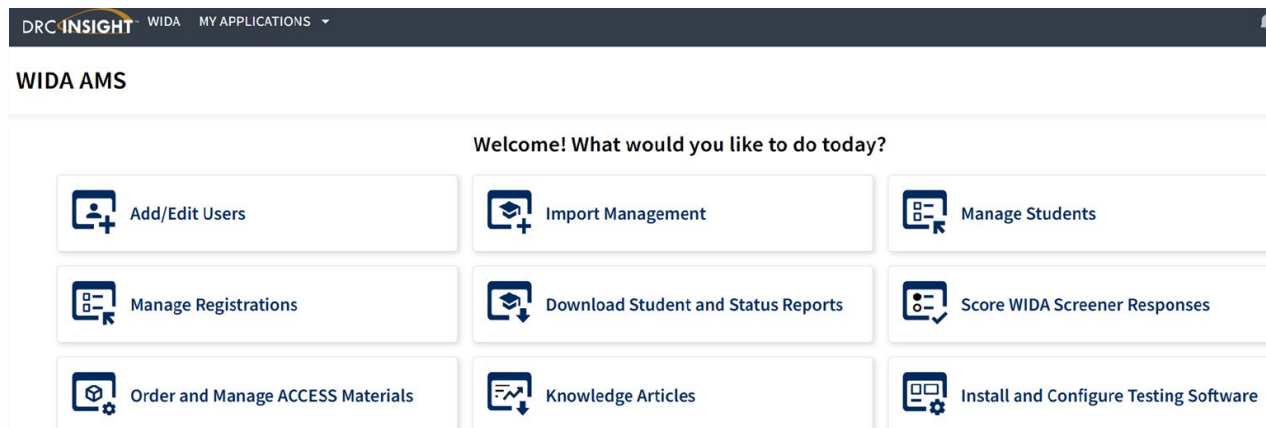
As new ADs, **you** will need a [WIDA Secure Portal](#) account

- Contact Megan Lopez
- Once you are set up as an AD, your responsibilities are:
 - Create new accounts for your test administrators, technology coordinators, and educators
 - Monitor who has completed the trainings for the assessments they will be administering
 - Download Screener materials



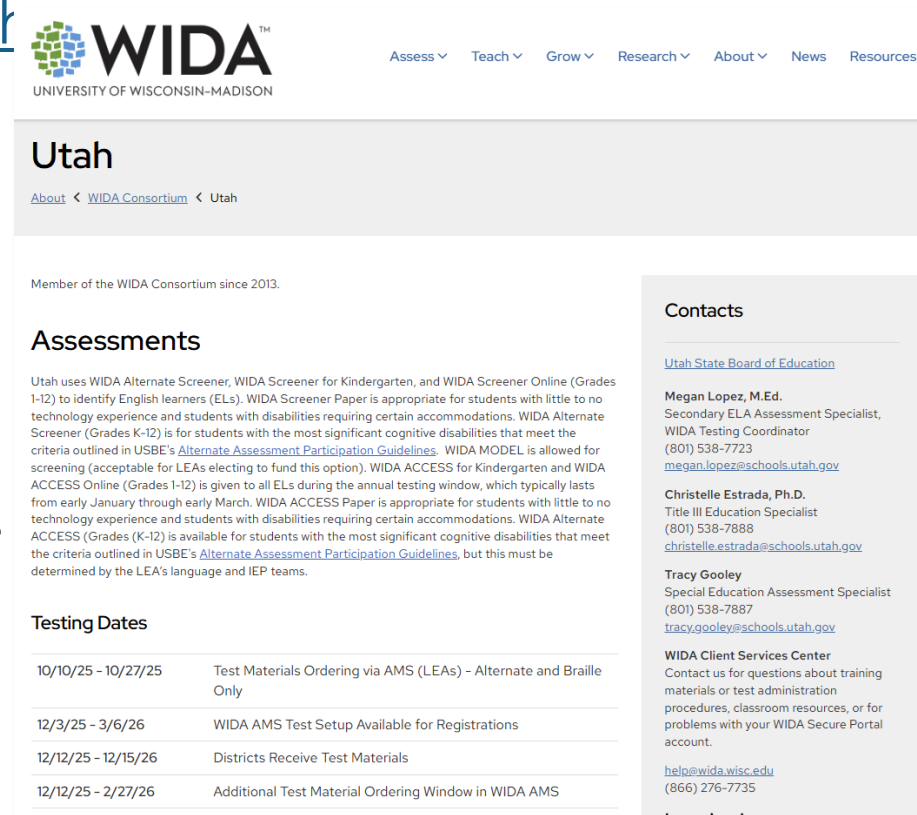
WIDA AMS Accounts:

- As new ADs, **you** will need a [WIDA AMS \(DRC\)](#) account
- Contact Megan Lopez
- Once you are set up as an AD, your responsibilities are:
 - Create new accounts for your test administrators, technology coordinators, and administrators
 - Monitor student test completion,
 - Order Braille and Alternate ACCESS materials
 - Complete LEA Data Validation
 - Retrieve test scores



AD Responsibilities and Dates:

- Become familiar with the WIDA Checklist, ID and Placement, and Manuals on the [Utah WIDA Website](#).
- Two-time UTREx Pre-ID Upload (late October 2026 and mid-December 2026)
- ACCESS LEA Data Validation
- **3/31/27-4/15/27**
- Distribute ACCESS Score Reports (Available Online May 3, 2027, Distribute **May 2027**)
- Communicate training opportunities to educators and test administrators



The screenshot shows the Utah WIDA website. The header includes the WIDA logo and navigation links: Assess, Teach, Grow, Research, About, News, and Resources. The main content area is titled "Utah" and includes a link to the WIDA Consortium. Below this, it states "Member of the WIDA Consortium since 2013." The "Assessments" section describes the WIDA Alternate Screener, WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, and WIDA Screener Online (Grades 1-12). The "Testing Dates" section includes a table with the following information:

Testing Dates	Testing Dates
10/10/25 - 10/27/25	Test Materials Ordering via AMS (LEAs) - Alternate and Braille Only
12/3/25 - 3/6/26	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Registrations
12/12/25 - 12/15/26	Districts Receive Test Materials
12/12/25 - 2/27/26	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in WIDA AMS

The "Contacts" section lists the following individuals:

- Megan Lopez, M.Ed.**
Secondary ELA Assessment Specialist,
WIDA Testing Coordinator
(801) 538-7723
megan.lopez@schools.utah.gov
- Christelle Estrada, Ph.D.**
Title III Education Specialist
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christelle.estrada@schools.utah.gov
- Tracy Gooley**
Special Education Assessment Specialist
(801) 538-7887
tracy.gooley@schools.utah.gov
- WIDA Client Services Center**
Contact us for questions about training materials or test administration procedures, classroom resources, or for problems with your WIDA Secure Portal account.
help@wida.wisc.edu
(866) 276-7735

WIDA ACCESS

- Free for all Utah LEAs through the WIDA Secure Portal and WIDA AMS
- WIDA ACCESS is an English language proficiency assessment given to current EL students in grades K–12 to measure academic English growth and proficiency.
- Assesses each of the four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing
- Reports proficiency level scores for each language domain and for three composite scores: Oral Language, Literacy and Overall; score reports are produced at the individual student level only (not school, district or state)

Who Takes WIDA ACCESS?

- [USBE WIDA Assessment Guidance Resource](#)
- All current EL students take ACCESS
- Students in EL monitoring (4 years) do NOT take ACCESS.
- Parental Exclusion is not an option
 - Why? Parents/guardians can elect to exclude students out of language services, but they cannot exclude students from WIDA ACCESS. LEAs must provide the student with the opportunity to test. LEAs should document everything if parents/guardians refuse to allow their student to test. Parents/guardians always have the ultimate right, but LEAs cannot provide parents/guardians a testing exclusion form to sign in order to opt the student out of testing. The only way a student can be deemed proficient and be reclassified as a former EL is by taking ACCESS. This is the student's civil right.

WIDA ACCESS Options

- WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten:
 - Paper-based, one-on-one test administration
 - Materials are ordered for LEAs and shipped
- WIDA ACCESS Online (grades 1-12):
 - Grades 4-12 all online (including writing)
 - Grades 1-3 writing domain is paper-based
 - Writing domain materials are ordered for LEAs and shipped
 - Group or single test administration
 - Materials are ordered for LEAs and shipped

Options Continued

- WIDA ACCESS Paper (1-12):
 - Includes: Braille, Large Print, and regular Paper
 - LEAs must order materials in AMS; materials will be shipped
 - Paper-based, group or single test administration
 - Only for students with little to no technology experience or for student's whose disability impedes access to the online option
 - Cannot be a combination of online and paper
- WIDA Alternate ACCESS (K-12):
 - LEAs must order materials in AMS; materials will be shipped
 - Paper-based, one-on-one test administration
 - For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities that meet the criteria outlined in the [Alternate Assessment Participation Guidelines](#)

General Exit Criteria

What is the criteria for ELs to exit language services in Utah?

- When students earn an Overall Composite score of 4.2 or higher with a Speaking score of 3.5 or higher, they are considered fluent in English and are exited from EL status. Send home the [Exit Letter](#) (forms tab) and schedule a parent conference at this time.
- Students are then re-designated to monitoring status for four years. Update your SIS.
 - Students are not required to take the ACCESS assessment during these four years of monitoring.
- Please note, this exit criteria was updated in the fall of 2023 from the Overall Composite score of 5.0 or higher.

Alternate Exit Criteria

What is the alternate criteria for ELs with significant cognitive disabilities to exit language services in Utah?

For Utah students K-12 taking Alternate ACCESS, reclassification, or exit criteria, has two pathways:

- Overall Composite Score of 5 (Automatic Exit)
OR
- As determined by the school IEP and EL specialist team, Alternate ACCESS Overall Composite Score of 4 and a DLM English Language Arts Score of 4 (At the discretion of the LEA, and the team has determined the student has proficient academic English to access content learning)
- Send home the [Exit Letter](#) and schedule a parent conference at this time.
- Students are then re-designated to monitoring status for four years. Update your SIS.
 - Students are not required to take the ACCESS assessment during these four years of monitoring.
- Please note, this [alternate exit criteria](#) (begins page 30) was approved by the US department of Education in the summer of 2026. This alternate exit criteria can be applied to Alternate ACCESS 2026 and on.

Who Can Give the WIDA ACCESS?



- Any LEA employee that has completed the Testing Ethics Training and the relevant WIDA ACCESS test administration training can give the assessment
- Alternate ACCESS considerations:
 - o Have someone who is familiar with the student administer the alternate screener or be present with the person who is administering the alternate screener
 - o Consider the students form of communication and utilize it during administration (work with special education teacher)
 - o Consider the students reinforcement system and incorporate that during administration (work with special education teacher)

Broader Considerations

- [Utah WIDA Assessment Guidance Resource](#)
- Each state has a different criteria and process.
- Parents/guardians may elect to exclude their student out of services by indicating this choice on the Annual Notification Letter, which is kept with the student's cumulative record. Parental/guardian exclusion of EL services does not opt students out of annual WIDA ACCESS assessment.
- [WIDA Parent Resources Website](#)
- USBE recommends LEAs use the optional Test Monitoring Application (TMA) in WIDA AMS to better monitor student during testing.
- [WIDA AMS Online Help Website](#)

Training Opportunities 2026-2027:

Title	Dates
13 Self-Paced Workshops available to all Utah Educators in the WIDA Secure Portal	9/1/26-8/31/27
Section 1 - Actionable Approaches for Centering Newcomers	Webinars: 9/23/26 and 9/30/26 Time: 3:30-5pm MT both days
Section 2 - Nurturing Speaking Growth	Webinars: 10/28/26 and 11/4/26 Time: 3:30-5pm MT both days
Section 3 - When Language and Disability Meet: Planning Instruction to Support Multilingual Learners Who Are Dually Identified	Webinars: 2/16/27 and 2/23/27 Time: 3-4:45pm MT both days

Register in
[Altitude](#)
[Course ID](#)
[100055](#)

Training Opportunities 2026-2027:

Title	Dates
Section 4 - Standards Aligned Instruction: Language, Literacy and Biliteracy Planning	In Person (SLC) : 3/16/27 Time: 8am-4pm MT
Section 5 - Collaboration Practices and Potentialities	In Person (SLC) : 5/18/27 Time: 8am-4pm MT

Register in
[Altitude](#)
[Course ID](#)
[100055](#)

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