

WIDA Screener:

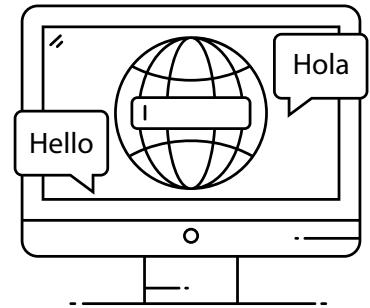
Identifying English Learners



This handout explains the WIDA Screener and how it helps teachers understand your child's English skills. It will guide you through why your child takes the test, what it measures, and what happens after the results.

What Is an English Learner?

An English learner (EL) is a student who is learning English in addition to the language spoken at home. ELs may need extra support to understand lessons and fully participate in school.



The screener helps teachers decide if your child should receive additional English supports.

Why Your Child Takes the WIDA Screener

When a student is new to the school, teachers may want to know if they need extra help with English. Based on a survey completed about the languages your family speaks at home, your child may be asked to take the WIDA Screener.

What the WIDA Screener Tests?

The WIDA Screener measures four areas of language:



Listening



Speaking



Reading



Writing

How is the Test Administered?

- » Most students in grades 1–12 take the test online.
- » Kindergarten students take a shorter paper-and-pencil version.

Testing usually takes about 80 minutes, but it may be shorter or longer depending on your child's needs. During the test, your child will answer questions and complete tasks that are similar to what they do in class, so they can show what they know in English.

How Results Are Used

Teachers use the results to determine whether your child is an English learner and to plan the right support to help them succeed in school.

If the screener shows your child is an English learner, they will begin receiving English support services and will later take the **WIDA ACCESS** test each year. ACCESS tracks how much students are learning and helps teachers plan lessons that meet their needs.



WIDA Alternate Screener

Some students with the most significant cognitive disabilities take the WIDA Alternate Screener instead. It is a shorter, paper-based test with 9 questions and usually takes less than 30 minutes. Like the regular screener, it helps teachers decide if a student should receive English support.

Learn More



More information on WIDA and resources in multiple languages available at:
tinyurl.com/WIDA-Guides