

WIDA Testing:

Understanding How Utah Supports English Learners



Every English Learner should feel supported and confident as they build their English skills. The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) uses WIDA assessments to track progress and make sure students get the tools they need to succeed in the classroom.

Why Does Utah Assess English Learners?

Both federal and state laws require schools to assess English Learners.

These assessments help us:

- Identify students who need English Learner services.
- Track progress each year to make sure students are developing their English skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



Required Assessments for English Learners

Utah uses two main types of WIDA assessments:

WIDA Screener / Alternate Screener

Grades K-12

Purpose: A placement test to see if a student qualifies for English Learner services.

When: Given within 30 days of starting school at the beginning of the year, or within 10 school days if enrolling later.

Who Qualifies: Students who score between 1.0 and 4.9 qualify for EL services.

WIDA ACCESS / Alternate ACCESS

Grades K-12

Purpose: An annual test that measures how much progress a student has made in learning English. It covers listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Requirement: All English Learners in Utah take this test every year.

Exit Criteria: Students exit when they reach an overall score of 4.2 or higher and a speaking score of 3.5 or higher.

Note: Exit criteria for the Alternate ACCESS is still being developed by USBE.



More information, in multiple languages, is available at:
wida.wisc.edu/teach/engagement