



## English as a Second Language Placement 2016-17 School Year

### **WIDA – ACCESS Placement**

The department has set the preliminary cut scores for the World Class Instructional Design Assessment, Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State (WIDA ACCESS) for the 2015 assessment administration. The cut scores can be used to determine the preliminary placement of English Learners (ELs) and if an EL can be reclassified from EL status to Transition 1 status. Districts may begin using this information to place students for the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. The following criteria may be used for preliminary reclassification:

- 5.0 for the overall composite
- 5.0 for literacy

There can be no adjustment of these scores and both criteria must be met. The preliminary exit criteria may not be averaged or otherwise altered.

For EL students scoring 3.6 and below on the WIDA ACCESS, service hours are one hour per day, 5 days each week. For those scoring 3.7 and above, services should be differentiated based on the needs of the student. For example, many of these students may still need an hour each day while others may need a reduced amount of time, perhaps 45 minutes or less a day, while some may need fewer than 5 days each week. However, these students must still receive EL services. Students who are scoring near exit, and doing well academically and on other state assessments, may be served as needed.

In order to be reclassified to a transitional status, the EL is required to meet both criteria (scoring 5.0 on overall composite and 5.0 on literacy for grades 1 to 12). For kindergarten two sets of scores are reported: one for instructional purposes and one for accountability purposes. Use 5.0 on the scale for accountability purposes only. More information may be found here: [www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS/#scores](http://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS/#scores).

The transitional phase lasts for two years, and during that transitional time, this group of ELs is not assessed with the WIDA ACCESS. Transitional students are coded with a "1" in the Education Information System (EIS) the first year after exit and are coded with a "2" the second year of transition. At the end of the transition period (the third year after exit), this group of students are coded with an "F" for former EL and that designation stays the same for the remainder of their academic career.

The final exit criteria will be announced once a crosswalk study of the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) is completed and we have approval from the U.S. Department of Education.



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### W-APT Placement

When a newly enrolled student has responded with a language other than English on any part of the Home Language Survey (HLS), s/he is screened for ESL services with the WIDA – ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT). The screener is given only once in the educational career of the EL. The scores on this screener determine:

- if the student will be classified as EL (coded as “L” in EIS), and
- the minimum amount of service the EL will receive.

Grade	Score	Needs Title III Service	Does not Qualify for Title III Service
Kindergarten 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	Below 27 on listening and speaking	X	
Kindergarten 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	27 to 30		X
Kindergarten 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester or 1 <sup>st</sup> grade 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	Any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening and speaking less than 27</li> <li>• Reading less than 14</li> <li>• Writing less than 17</li> </ul>	X	
Kindergarten 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester or 1 <sup>st</sup> grade 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	All of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening and speaking 27 or above</li> <li>• Reading 14 or above</li> <li>• Writing 17 or above</li> </ul>		X
1 <sup>st</sup> grade 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	Composite score of less than 5.0 or any domain (reading, writing, listening and speaking) score less than 5.0	X	
1 <sup>st</sup> grade 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	Composite score of 5.0 or better and 5.0 on literacy.		X

If a student will receive ESL services, the next step must be a determination of how much service the student is entitled. State Board policy 3.207 spells out that beginners and low intermediate ELs will receive a minimum of an hour per day of direct ESL service. The guidance for the change to WIDA is below.

Students in Kindergarten through the 1 <sup>st</sup> semester of the 1 <sup>st</sup> grade receive an hour of service per day if they have a score of 20 or below in listening or speaking.	Students in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 1 <sup>st</sup> grade through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade receive an hour minimum per day of service if they have any score on composite or any domain less than 3.6
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If you have questions, please email [Lori.Nixon@tn.gov](mailto:Lori.Nixon@tn.gov) or [Jan.Lanier@tn.gov](mailto:Jan.Lanier@tn.gov).