

WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Office of Standards & Assessment
Michigan Department of Education

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Contact Information

Below is a quick table to help direct your questions appropriately so that you can get answers efficiently, but when in doubt please make OSA your first choice for who to call on assessment related questions:

Office of Standards & Assessment

1-877-560-8378, Option 7

Questions pertaining to the following:

1. W-APT/ACCESS for ELLs testing window
2. Guidance for participation criteria on the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
3. BAA Secure Site information
4. BAA processes such as Pre-ID, Tested Roster, etc.
5. Login information (usernames/passwords) for access to the secure WIDA materials
6. Waivers
7. WIDA assessment professional development activities sponsored by OSA

Office of Field Services

517-373-6066

Questions pertaining to the following:

1. Entrance & Exit Protocol
2. Title III funding
3. Title III compliance and monitoring
4. WIDA standards professional development activities sponsored by OFS

WIDA Call Center

1-877-560-8378, Option 5 OR

1-866-276-7735

Questions pertaining to the following:

1. General WIDA information about standards and assessments

General

1. What is WIDA?

WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment) is a consortium of states dedicated to the design and implementation of high standards and equitable educational opportunities for English language learners. As of August 2013, the WIDA consortium consists of 31 states and territories plus Washington, D.C.

2. What is the W-APT?

W-APT stands for the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test. This assessment tool, known as a "screener", should be used by educators to measure the English language proficiency of students who have recently arrived in the U.S. or in a particular district. It can help to determine whether or not a child is in need of English language instructional services. This assessment replaces the ELPA Initial Screening assessment.

3. What do I do with my old ELPA Initial Screening materials?

You may securely destroy these materials at the district. There is no need to return them to BAA.

4. Can I still enter ELPA Initial Screening scores into the BAA Secure Site?

No. There is a window of time during which districts are able to enter scores for a particular screening cycle. Districts were able to enter Cycle II scores and Pre-K Cycle ELPA Initial Screening scores until July 26, 2013.

5. Who takes the W-APT?

Upon enrollment into a Michigan school, all students should be screened for the purpose of identification of students in need of English learner (EL) services. When a student enrolls, the Home Language Survey (HLS) must be filled out by the parent/guardian. The HLS asks two questions:

- (1) Is the student's native tongue a language other than English?; and
- (2) Is a language other than English spoken in the student's home environment?

If the answer to either question is yes, the student must be given the W-APT and scores must be entered into the BAA Secure Site, regardless of the district's decision to enter the student into EL services or not.

6. Who should enter the W-APT scores into the BAA Secure Site?

It is recommended that one person at the district level or in each building be identified as the sole person responsible for entering scores into the BAA Secure Site. This helps keep district processes efficient. This person must have access to the BAA Secure Site. Please contact the BAA with questions about gaining proper access.

7. Who can administer the W-APT?

There are three sets of criteria that administrators of the W-APT must meet.

(1) Educators must fall into one of the following categories in order to administer the W-APT:

- Educators who are district employees – must hold current State of Michigan teaching certificate, or

- Educators who are not district employees (retired teachers) – must hold current State of Michigan teaching certificate, or
- Paraprofessionals – must not be funded by Title III funds
- Substitutes

All of the above personnel must be trained and/or monitored in order to administer the assessment.

(2) Training

Educators who will be administering the W-APT must have an understanding of content in the following areas:

- General W-APT structure (domains, adaptivity, grade level clusters, scoring, etc.)
- Have reviewed the writing rubrics and practiced scoring writing responses
- Have reviewed the speaking rubrics and practiced scoring speaking responses using the samples available on WIDA's website.

It is recommended that training be conducted and materials reviewed in a group format within districts. This helps to establish inter-rater reliability between all educators who will be administering the W-APT. Districts should make attempts to ensure that all students are scored and administered the assessment in a similar fashion which helps to establish a fair and reliable assessment for all students.

(3) Monitoring

If districts choose to include paraprofessionals and substitutes in the administration of the W-APT, districts must make sure that these educators are monitored during the actual assessment. Monitoring is defined as intermittent observations of the test administration by a certified teacher.

8. Can districts screen students using the W-APT during kindergarten roundup?

Yes, districts may screen students using the W-APT during kindergarten roundup in the spring instead of waiting until the beginning of the following school year.

9. How many times will a student take the W-APT?

Ideally, a student will only take the W-APT one time. There are a few circumstances where a student may take the W-APT screener again, such as when being screened to possibly re-enter EL services. For students who have left and returned to the country, it is possible that a district may want to rescreen the students. Districts should take into consideration time away from usage of the English language for academic purposes as well as the consideration that language learning skills often atrophy, or decline, when students do not use them.

10. Can the W-APT be administered in groups?

Although there is guidance within the W-APT test administration manuals indicating that the W-APT can be administered in small groups for the Listening, Reading, and Writing domains, it is OSA's strong recommendation that the W-APT be administered as it was intended, as an individual administration for all domains (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking). The W-APT is an adaptive assessment and a group administration removes this major benefit of the assessment. Additionally, for the majority of newcomers, lengthening the time of the assessment is unnecessary and will not provide districts with additional information about a student's linguistic abilities.

11. Who scores the W-APT?

The W-APT is scored immediately by the test administrator once the assessment has been completed. Note: No part of the W-APT is sent away for scoring.

12. What is the W-APT calculator?

[The W-APT Score Calculator](#) is a tool to save test administrators the time of manually converting raw scores and calculating the adjusted composite proficiency level (CPL) scores. With the click of a button, it calculates Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening proficiency scores, along with the CPL score and a grade-adjusted CPL score. Using the calculator will also generate a basic printable score report. Unfortunately, it cannot be applied to Kindergarten scores at this time. Please note that scores are not saved in the calculator and scores must still be entered into the BAA Secure Site.

13. How much does the W-APT cost?

Michigan school districts do not pay the Michigan Department of Education to administer the W-APT screening assessment.

14. Is the W-APT a secure test?

Yes. Test administrators must be trained in its administration and agree to maintain the security of test questions. Once tests are downloaded and printed, they should be kept as secure as any other state assessments, and be administered following standard security procedures.

15. Can Title III money be used for W-APT?

No. Title III money cannot be used for any activities related to the administration or scoring of the W-APT. This includes attending training for the assessment, or hiring substitute teachers to free up educators to administer the assessment. If you have further questions regarding how districts can use Title III money, please contact the Office of Field Services at 517-373-6066.

16. Can private schools administer the W-APT?

Yes. Michigan's private schools can administer the W-APT. Additionally, in many cases, private schools have agreements with the local public schools for EL related services.

17. How do I get the W-APT?

The W-APT can be downloaded from www.wida.us/assessment/w-apt/. You must have a WIDA Login to access the W-APT materials. Please contact the OSA at 1-877-560-8378, Option 7 for information on accessing materials.

WIDA ACCOUNTS

18. I am a district test coordinator. What does my W-APT account give me access to?

Your W-APT account gives you access to all of the W-APT materials. You can download and print materials from the WIDA site.

19. How many WIDA accounts should I have?

In many cases, educators may have two different WIDA accounts. The first account, the W-APT login, is intended for gaining access to the W-APT materials and there is only one set of login credentials for an entire district.

The second account provides educators the ability to take the ACCESS for ELLs (the summative assessment) training course. Each educator who will be administering the ACCESS for ELLs will have a unique login for the ACCESS online training course. The ACCESS for ELLs training course provides samples of student Speaking responses and can also be used to aid districts in scoring the Speaking section of the W-APT.

20. I have my username and password, but the system still does not allow me to log in.

Make sure you are logging into the correct website www.wida.us. If it does not work, contact WIDA through [WIDA Help](#) or call at 1-866-276-7735 to request assistance.

21. I lost my username and/or password. What should I do?

Lost or forgotten W-APT passwords cannot be reset or recovered on the WIDA website. To recover or reset a password, please contact WIDA through [WIDA Help](#) or call 1-866-276-7735 to request assistance.

22. I am a new district test coordinator and I need a login for the WIDA website. What do I do?

If you are a new district test coordinator, be sure to do the following:

- (1) Identify who is responsible for maintaining your districts contact information in the Educational Entity Master (EEM). Be sure that your name and contact information are updated in this repository. Please contact the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) for guidance on updating this information: 517-335-0505 or cepi@michigan.gov.
- (2) Ensure that you are receiving the regular BAA Thursday e-mails. These communications include announcements and important reminders and updates about the WIDA as well as other assessment and accountability related information.
- (3) Contact OSA at XXX to obtain your W-APT login information.
- (4) Review W-APT materials, watch OSA and WIDA webinars, and practice scoring writing and speaking responses to prepare for administering the W-APT.

BAA SECURE SITE ACCOUNTS

23. How do I get access to the BAA Secure Site?

There are two methods to gain access to the *NEW BAA Secure Site*. **NOTE:** Users will need to know their MEIS ID, MEIS login and password to access the *NEW BAA Secure Site*. A user can go to <https://cepi.state.mi.us/meis/login.aspx/> to access their MEIS login, MEIS ID, reset their password or create a MEIS account if they do not already have one. If you had a MEIS account previously, please do not open a new account – use the self-help features available at <https://cepi.state.mi.us/MEIS/Login.aspx> or get helpdesk assistance to re-activate your existing account.

1. Users can log in to the *NEW Secure Site* with their MEIS login and password. If they do not already have access to the site, the “Request Access” screen will display and allow the user to request access to the *NEW Secure Site*.
2. A user can contact the designated district administrator directly to request access to the *NEW BAA Secure Site*. The district administrator will log into the *NEW Secure Site* and

click on “Security-Manage User Profiles” under the Admin Functions menu and create access for the user. The user will need to provide the district administrator with their MEIS ID (starts with an “A”) in order for the district administrator to create access in the *NEW Secure Site*. The user will get an email at the email address listed in the MEIS system (again, please make sure it is up-to-date), confirming access has been granted.

NOTE: Each district will need to establish one or more District Administrators for the *New BAA Secure Site*. The District Administrator will then be responsible for establishing all other needed users accounts/profiles for the district and for schools within the district. The process for establishing a new District Administrator is: Complete the *District Administrator User ID* form at <https://baa.state.mi.us/meap/login.asp> (the form will be near the bottom of the Announcements page after secure login). This form is **ONLY** for District Authorized Users and must be signed by the District Superintendent. Do not complete this form unless you want the individual listed to have full access, including establishing/removing district and school users. The designated district administrator will receive an email from the system indicating that a request to access the site has been made. The email will go to the email address on the MEIS profile (please make sure it is up-to-date). The district administrator will then log in to the *NEW Secure Site* and go to the “Security-Manage System Requests” under the Admin Functions menu to review and approve/deny access. The user will get an email at the email address listed in the MEIS system (again, please make sure it is up-to-date), confirming the request was accepted or denied.

If a user already has access to the *NEW Secure Site* and would like to request *additional access*, they will go to the “Request Access” screen under the Security menu after logging into the *NEW BAA Secure Site*.

TRAINING

24. Do I need to attend a live training?

No. However, districts and educators need to ensure that they are taking full advantage of webinars offered by OSA and the pre-recorded videos on WIDA’s website. Also be sure to have a comprehensive grasp of the following topics:

- General W-APT structure (domains, adaptivity, grade level clusters, scoring, etc.)
- Have reviewed the writing rubrics and practiced scoring writing
- Have reviewed the speaking rubrics and practiced scoring speaking responses using the samples available on WIDA’s website.

25. How do I find out what OSA WebEx’s are available?

For information on OSA’s assessment offerings throughout the year, please visit the OSA website at www.michigan.gov/elpa and look for the WIDA Professional Development Calendar.

NEW STUDENTS

26. How much time do I have to screen possible EL students?

Possible EL students must be screened in the first 30 days (school days) of the school year. Any possible EL student that enrolls after the first 30 days must be screened within two weeks of enrollment.

27. Do I need to administer the W-APT to exchange students?

Any student a district enrolls and is receiving state and federal funding is held to all statewide assessment and accountability processes. Exchange students are required to be assessed by any assessments for which they qualify. Districts should enroll these students using the same enrollment processes (HLS, W-APT administration, etc.) that are used with all other students.

28. If a student moves in from another district but already has W-APT scores do they need to be screened again?

If a student has moved in from another district in Michigan and already has W-APT scores, they do not need to be re-screened. However, a district could choose to rescreen the student if the student is not already enrolled in EL services and there is an indication that the student does need additional instructional supports.

29. If a student moves from another state, do they need to be screened here?

The following scenarios for student entrance and guidance for each scenario is provided below:

- (1) **Student has a current (1-year or less from the time of enrollment) W-APT score only** – W-APT does not need to be re-administered unless the district has an indication based on observations, time out of country, etc. that the student may qualify for services when their prior score did not qualify them.
- (2) **Student has a historical (More than 1-year has passed since the time of enrollment) W-APT score only** - W-APT may need to be re-administered. The district has an indication based on observations, time out of country, time away from intensive usage of academic English, etc. that the student may qualify for services when their prior score did not qualify them. It's also possible that the student's language abilities have improved significantly and may not be in need of EL services.
- (3) **Student has a W-APT score and an ACCESS for ELLs or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs score** – W-APT would most likely not be re-administered. A district should take into consideration the student's W-APT and ACCESS scores, observations, time out of country, and time away from intensive usage of academic English in order to make a determination about the possibility of rescreening and/or entering a student into EL services.

IDENTIFICATION

30. Which grade level cluster of the W-APT do I use?

Please use the following chart to determine which grade level cluster of W-APT should be used. For first semester students, students should not be screened at a grade level where they have yet to receive sufficient instruction.

Cycle I – August 15 – December 14													
Grade Level	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test to be used	K	K	1-2	1-2	3-5	3-5	3-5	6-8	6-8	6-8	9-12	9-12	9-12
Cycle II – December 15 – August 14													
Grade Level	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test to be used	K	1-2	1-2	3-5	3-5	3-5	6-8	6-8	6-8	9-12	9-12	9-12	9-12

31. How does the screening process work?

For the purposes of screening, there are three groups of students to consider:

- 1st semester Kindergarten students
- 2nd semester Kindergarten students/1st semester 1st graders
- 2nd semester 1st graders through 12th graders

1st semester Kindergarten students

Because most 1st semester Kindergarten students cannot read or write you will screen them on the listening and speaking sections only using the Kindergarten W-APT.

2nd semester Kindergarten students/1st semester 1st graders

Kindergartners who enroll on or after December 15, should be administered all domains of the Kindergarten W-APT (listening, reading, writing, and speaking).

2ND semester 1st graders through 12th graders

Use the on-grade level W-APT form for students.

32. My district has identified at least one student as being an EL. How do we go about giving services?

If you aren't sure about what services you need to provide or how to provide them, please contact the Office of Field Services at 517-373-6066.

ACCOMMODATIONS

33. Can students have accommodations on the W-APT?

Yes. Students can use any of the universal accommodations found in the [Accommodation Summary Table](#) under ELPA. Please contact the Office of Standards & Assessment at 1-877-560-8378, Option 7 if you have further questions about possible accommodations for the W-APT.

SCORES & REPORTS

34. Do I still need to enter W-APT scores into the BAA Secure Site?

Yes, upon the completion of assessing a student, scores should be entered into the New BAA Secure Site. Districts should keep results in the students' cumulative folder. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that districts share the results with the parents and teachers of the student. Districts are required to share information about EL services with the W-APT results should also be kept for monitoring purposes.

35. Will I be able to download W-APT results and reports from the BAA Secure Site?

Yes. However, as of the beginning of September 2013, this functionality has not yet been activated in the BAA Secure Site due to the transition to the new BAA Secure Site. Please check with the BAA for the most up-to-date information around accessing this portion of the BAA Secure Site.