

Hello again!

First, I must apologize if you are receiving this message multiple times. I am using several contact lists to ensure I reach everyone possible. I tried to delete multiple entries, but undoubtedly a few have gotten through! If you have already responded that you are unable to participate or aid in recruitment, please disregard this message, or pass it on to other possibly interested parties. The original email message from Sept. 23 appears below.

Second, I wanted to provide everyone with an update on our recruiting efforts for the upcoming pilot assessment of the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. I am also attaching an FAQ pdf to answer any questions you may have. If you have additional questions that are not addressed, please do not hesitate to email me.

Many schools and districts in several WIDA states have responded to the previous recruitment message. I hope this email will inform you of our current efforts and serve as a follow-up to any message you may have sent to myself or Craig Albers that we perhaps have not been able to respond to as of yet.

As of today, October 14, we have approximately 118 student candidates for the pilot assessment. We are very grateful for the offered participation from the schools and teachers that have contacted us thus far, however, we would like to continue recruiting for at least one more week. We are especially interested in adding more students in grades 6-12 to our roster. If your school/district includes a large population of students who might be candidates for this assessment and time commitment is a concern, please contact me as well.

Ideally, we will be able to disseminate testing materials by or during the first week of November. Additional information and more formal participation documents will be emailed as soon as possible.

Thanks very much for considering participation! We look forward to working with you!

Jessica Wohlferd
Program Manager

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on Sept 23, 2009, Jessica Wohlferd wrote:
Greetings WIDA SEA Representatives, State Education Agency
Representatives, Educators and Administrators:

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment project team at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison is currently preparing for pilot testing of newly developed performance-based items and the revised evidence-collection items. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is designed to be an ELP measure for use with ELL students who have significant disabilities (primarily cognitive disabilities, but for the pilot test would like to include students with a range of disabilities).

We are requesting that educators and school, district or state representatives who may be interested in participating in this pilot test reply to this email with the number of students that you would have access to and who possibly would be available to participate in the alternate ELP pilot assessment, their grade levels, and their first language. Names of potential students can remain confidential. We are seeking students with a broad range of disabilities (e.g., autism, asperger's, cognitive disabilities/mental retardation, multiple disabilities). We will collect background information regarding the child's specific condition during data collection.

During the past couple of years, we have received consistent feedback from educators that an alternate ELP assessment is necessary for these students. Your continued involvement through participation in the pilot assessment will allow teachers, schools, districts and states to provide more input and contributions to this new assessment system that is anticipated to be used by many or all of the 20 states who are members of the WIDA Consortium.

If you know that you will not be able to participate in the pilot test, please pass this information on to possible interested parties - or simply disregard this message.

Depending on responses received, we anticipate being able to provide more detailed and specific information no later than mid-October.

Please reply directly to this email, or you may reply to the Primary Investigator/Project Director:

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Primary Investigator/ Project Director
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Thank you very much for your interest and response.

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