Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education

From: Lynn Schemel, Director of Student Assessment

Date: July 1, 2025

Subject: 2025-2026 WIDA Assessment Guidance

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) annually reviews assessment guidance. Updates to guidance occur due to WIDA updates, changes in state or federal English Learner (EL) programming requirements or guidance, updates to the assessments or accommodations, and additional support needed based on review of the previous assessment administration. Members of the Office of Student Assessment and the Office of English Learners and Migrant Education participate in WIDA subcommittees and collaborate with other state education agencies.

IDOE is requesting State Board approval of the 2025-2026 WIDA Assessment Guidance. Specific changes from prior guidance are noted below. A more detailed Change Log can be found on pages 41 and 42 of the WIDA Assessment Guidance.

Topic	Section	Page	Description
Participation	Participation Requirements	3	Added Table 1: Categories of Students Reporting a Non-English Home Language.
WIDA Alternate Screener	WIDA Assessments in Grades K-12 and Appendix A	5, 33-34	Added information and guidance regarding the new WIDA Alternate Screener assessment, including participation criteria and entrance criteria.
Scoring	Test Results and Reporting	14	Added information regarding how scale scores are converted to proficiency levels.
Communicating Student Results	Test Results and Reporting	15	Added guidance on communicating student results and added information regarding rescore requests.
Training	Training Requirements, Appendix B	20, 35	Updated training requirements and added Table 6: New and Revised WIDA Assessment Training Courses. Updated Training Course Checklist.
Student Transfers	Testing Modes and Technology Guidance	23-25	Added a specific section and Table 8 to address student transfers and student transfer scenarios.

Topic	Section	Page	Description
IDOE Special Programs	WIDA Accessibility Features and Accommodations	26	Added guidance on indicating EL status and assessment participation in IDOE Special Programs; removed Indiana IEP screenshots.
Domain Exemptions	WIDA Accessibility Features and Accommodations	27-28	Revised domain exemption guidance to align with IDOE Special Programs functionality and to include new reporting information.
Accommodated Test Forms	WIDA Accessibility Features and Accommodations	29-30	Added guidance for large print and braille test forms to align with IDOE Special Programs functionality. Added information regarding the availability of braille for the Speaking domain.
Unallowable Accommodations and Supports	WIDA Accessibility Features and Accommodations	30	Added Unallowable Accommodations and Supports subsection.
Secure Test Materials	Appendix C	36	Added Appendix C: Handling Secure Test Materials and included a materials checklist.
Testing Issues and Irregularities	Appendix E	38-39	Expanded the list of Common Testing Issues and Irregularities.
WIDA Monthly Office Hours	Appendix F	40	Updated the WIDA Monthly Office Hours schedule and added registration links.