



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Dr. Ben Jones  
Secretary of Education  
South Dakota Department of Education,  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

November 20, 2019

Dear Secretary Jones:

Thank you for your participation in the U.S. Department of Education's (the Department) assessment peer review process under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). I appreciate the efforts of the South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE) to prepare for the English language proficiency (ELP) assessment peer review, which occurred in April and May 2019. Specifically, SD DOE submitted evidence regarding ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS.

The ESEA and its implementing regulations require a State to ensure that it provides an annual ELP assessment of all English learners (ELs) in grades K-12 in schools served by the State (ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(G); 34 CFR § 200.6(h)). Specifically, the ESEA requires a State to develop a uniform statewide ELP assessment to measure the ELP of all ELs in the State, including ELs with disabilities, and to provide an alternate ELP assessment (AELPA) for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the regular ELP assessment even with accommodations (ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(G); 34 CFR § 200.6(h)(1), (5)). The ESEA and its implementing regulations require that a State's ELP assessments, including the AELPA, be aligned with the State's ELP standards, provide valid and reliable measures of the State's ELP standards, and be of adequate technical quality (ESEA section 1111(b)(2)(G); 34 CFR §§ 200.2(b)(2), (b)(4), (b)(5), 200.6(h)(2)).

External peer reviewers and Department staff carefully evaluated SD DOE's submission and the Department found, based on the evidence received, that this component of your assessment system met some, but not all of the statutory and regulatory requirements of the ESEA. Based on the recommendations from this peer review and our own analysis of the State's submission, I have determined the following:

- General ELP assessment (ACCESS): **Partially meets requirements of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA.**
- Alternate ELP assessment (Alternate ACCESS): **Partially meets requirements of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA.**

The assessments that partially meet requirements do not meet a number of the requirements of the statute and regulations and SD DOE will need to provide substantial additional information to demonstrate it meets the requirements. The Department realizes that this was the first time your State was required to provide its ELP and AELPA for peer review and recognizes that it may take some time to address all of the

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required items. The specific list of items required for SD DOE to submit is enclosed with this letter. Within 30 days, SD DOE must provide a plan and timeline for submitting all required documentation. Upon submission of the plan, the Department will reach out to the State educational agency (SEA) to determine a mutually agreeable schedule. Resubmission should occur once all necessary evidence is complete (rather than in multiple submissions). The Department is placing a condition on SD DOE's Title I, Part A grant award. To satisfy this condition, SD DOE must submit satisfactory evidence to address the items identified in the enclosed list. If adequate progress is not made, the Department may take additional action.

The full peer review notes from the review are enclosed. These recommendations to the Department formed the basis of our determination. Please note that the peers' recommendations may differ from the Department's feedback; we encourage you to read the full peer notes for additional suggestions and recommendations for improving your assessment system beyond what is noted in the Department's feedback. Department staff will reach out to your assessment director in the next few days to discuss the peer notes and the Department's determination and to answer any questions you have.

Additionally, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) will monitor progress on matters pertaining to requirements in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) related to the participation of students with disabilities in Title I assessments. In particular, OSERS will monitor progress against critical elements 4.2, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 6.3. Insufficient progress to address such matters may lead OSERS to place a condition on SD DOE's fiscal year 2020 IDEA Part B grant award.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving educational outcomes for all students. I look forward to our continued partnership as we move ahead with this critical work. I appreciate the work you are doing to improve your schools and provide a high-quality education for your students.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff at: [ESEA.Assessment@ed.gov](mailto:ESEA.Assessment@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan  
Assistant Secretary for  
Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosures

cc: Becky Nelson, Director of Learning & Instruction

**Critical Elements Where Additional Evidence is Needed for the South Dakota’s Administration of the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS ELP Assessments**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Additional Evidence Needed</b>
<b>1.1 – State Adoption of ELP Standards for All English Learners</b>	For the State’s ELP standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State formally adopted K-12 ELP standards for all ELs in public schools in the State (specifically, clarify which standards are assessed by the ELP assessments).</li> </ul>
<b>1.2 – Coherent and Progressive ELP Standards that Correspond to the State’s Academic Content Standards</b>	For the State’s ELP standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For science, evidence that the ELP standards contain language proficiency expectations that reflect the language needed for ELs to acquire and demonstrate their achievement of the knowledge and skills identified in the State’s academic content standards appropriate to each grade-level/grade-band.</li> <li>• For reading/language arts (R/LA) and mathematics, evidence of alignment of its current ELP standards to the State’s academic content standards.</li> </ul>
<b>1.3 – Required Assessments</b>	For the Alternate ACCESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence clarifies how ELs with significant cognitive disabilities are assessed in kindergarten (e.g., verify if they are administered the current Alternate ACCESS or some other assessment).</li> </ul>
<b>1.4 – Policies for Including All Students in Assessments</b>	For the Alternate ACCESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See critical element 1.3.</li> </ul>
<b>2.1 – Test Design and Development</b>	For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that both assessments are aligned to the depth and breadth of the State’s ELP standards, including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Statement of the purposes and intended uses of results.</li> <li>○ Test blueprints.</li> <li>○ Processes to ensure that the ELP assessment is tailored to the knowledge and skills included in the State’s ELP standards and reflects appropriate inclusion of the range of complexity found in the standards (e.g., detail about the routing rules, detail of the item selection process for paper forms to ensure it adheres to the blueprint).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> For ACCESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the item pool and item selection procedures adequately support the multi-stage adaptive administrations.</li> <li>• Evidence that proficiency determinations are made with respect to the grade in which the student is enrolled.</li> </ul>

Critical Element	Additional Evidence Needed
<b>2.2 – Item Development</b>	<p>For ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of reasonable and technically sound procedures to develop and select items (e.g., timeline of development, qualifications of item writers, item-writing training, item review processes and reviewer qualifications, field test processes for each domain, and TAC review).</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of reasonable and technically sound procedures to develop and select items to assess ELP (e.g., involvement of experts with knowledge of English learners with significant cognitive disabilities).</li> </ul>
<b>2.3 – Test Administration</b>	<p>For ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State has established contingency plans to address possible technology challenges during test administration.</li> </ul>
<b>2.4 – Monitoring Test Administration</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that demonstrates the monitoring of test administration for all ELP assessments in the State system: the general ELP assessments and the AELPA.</li> </ul>
<b>2.5 – Test Security</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State has implemented and documented an appropriate set of policies and procedures to ensure the integrity of test results through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Detection of testing irregularities.</li> <li>○ Remediation following any test security incidents involving any of the State’s assessments;</li> <li>○ Investigation of alleged or factual test irregularities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence for the Alternate ACCESS of policies and procedures to protect the integrity of the test given that the test form is unchanged for the past several years.</li> </ul>
<b>2.6 – Systems for Protecting Data Integrity and Privacy</b>	<p>For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of State policies and procedures for protecting the integrity and confidentiality of its test materials, test-related data, and personally identifiable information, specifically guidelines for districts and schools.</li> </ul>
<b>3.1 – Overall Validity, including Validity Based on Content</b>	<p>For ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of adequate alignment between the State’s ELP assessment and the ELP standards the assessment is designed to measure in terms of language knowledge and skills and the depth and breadth of the State’s ELP standards across all proficiency levels, domains, and modalities identified therein.</li> <li>• Documentation of alignment between the State’s ELP standards and the language demands implied by, or explicitly stated in, the State’s academic content standards.</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p>

Critical Element	Additional Evidence Needed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of adequate linkage to the State’s ELP standards in terms of content match (i.e., no unrelated content) and that the breadth of content and linguistic complexity determined in test design is appropriate for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</li> </ul>
<b>3.2 – Validity Based on Linguistic Processes</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate validity evidence that its assessments tap the intended language processes appropriate for each grade level/grade-band as represented in the State’s ELP standards.</li> </ul>
<b>3.3 – Validity Based on Internal Structure</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the scoring and reporting structures of the assessments are consistent with the subdomain structures of the State’s ELP standards (e.g., an explanation of how the included statistical analyses relate to the validity framework for the assessments).</li> </ul>
<b>3.4 – Validity Based on Relationships with Other Variables</b>	<p>For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate validity evidence that the State’s assessment scores are related as expected with other variables.</li> </ul>
<b>4.1 – Reliability</b>	<p>For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of test reliability, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliability by subgroups;</li> <li>Consistency and accuracy of estimates in categorical classification decisions for the cut scores, achievement levels or proficiency levels based on the assessment results;</li> <li>Evidence that reliability statistics are used to inform ongoing maintenance and development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For computer-adaptive tests, evidence that the assessments produce test forms with adequately precise estimates of an EL’s English language proficiency.</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of reliability, including Test Information Functions (TIFs) for overall composite scores</li> </ul>
<b>4.2 – Fairness and accessibility</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the assessments are accessible to all students and fair across student groups in design, development, and analysis (e.g., the implementation of universal design principles, to the extent practicable, during item development and review, and additional differential item functioning (DIF) analyses to include more student subgroups).</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the State has taken reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that its assessments are accessible to all EL students and fair across student groups, including ELs with disabilities, in their design, development, and analysis, guidance and instructions on appropriate</li> </ul>

Critical Element	Additional Evidence Needed
	<p>instructional supports that can be used during the assessment, particularly for Braille and alternate modes of communication.</p>
<p><b>4.3 – Full Performance Continuum</b></p>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that each assessment provides an adequately precise estimate of student performance across the full performance continuum for ELP assessments, including performance for EL students with high and low levels of English language proficiency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.4 – Scoring</b></p>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) because there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s), the State ensures that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, including a description of how this will occur.</li> </ul> <p>For ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of standardized scoring procedures and protocols that are designed to produce reliable and meaningful results, facilitate valid score interpretations, and report assessment results in terms of the State’s ELP standards (e.g., evidence that the scoring of speaking items on the paper form of the test is monitored.)</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of the implementation of standardized scoring procedures and protocols (e.g., definitions of key terms and test administration and scoring procedures).</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.5 – Multiple Assessment Forms</b></p>	<p>For ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that all forms adequately represent the State’s ELP standards and yield consistent score interpretations such that the forms are comparable within and across settings, particularly for the listening domain (e.g., rationales for why equating is not done for the paper versions of the reading and listening domains and rationales for the use of the anchor item sets).</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that all forms adequately represent the State’s ELP standards and yield consistent score interpretations such that the forms are comparable within and across settings (e.g., evidence that using the same test items every year does not impact validity).</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.7 – Technical Analysis and Ongoing Maintenance</b></p>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of adequate technical quality is made public, including on the State’s website.</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p>

Critical Element	Additional Evidence Needed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of a system for monitoring, maintaining, and improving, as needed, the quality of its assessment system.</li> </ul>
<b>5.1 – Procedures for Including Students with Disabilities</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of policies that require the inclusion of an EL with a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected component.</li> </ul>
<b>5.3 –Accommodations</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State ensures that appropriate accommodations are available for ELs (e.g., evidence of required training regarding the selection and use of accommodations on the ELP assessments).</li> <li>• Evidence of a process to individually review and allow exceptional requests for a small number of students who require accommodations beyond those routinely allowed.</li> <li>• Evidence that the provided accommodations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are appropriate and effective for meeting the individual student’s need(s) to participate in the assessments.</li> <li>○ Do not alter the construct being assessed.</li> <li>○ Allow meaningful interpretations of results and comparison of scores for students who need and receive accommodations and students who do not need and do not receive accommodations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that appropriate accommodations are available for ELs.</li> <li>• Evidence that accommodations do not deny students with disabilities or ELs the opportunity to participate in the assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>5.4 – Monitoring Test Administration for Special Populations</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State monitors ELP test administration in its districts and schools to ensure that appropriate assessments, with or without accommodations, are selected for all ELs with disabilities so that they are appropriately included in assessments and receive accommodations that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consistent with the State’s policies for accommodations;</li> <li>○ Appropriate for addressing a student’s disability or language needs for each assessment administered;</li> <li>○ Consistent with accommodations provided to the students during instruction and/or practice;</li> <li>○ Consistent with the assessment accommodations identified by a student’s IEP Team under IDEA, placement team convened under Section 504; or for students covered by Title II of the ADA, the individual or team designated by a district to make these decisions; or another process for an EL;</li> <li>○ Administered with fidelity to test administration procedures;</li> <li>○ Monitored for administrations of all required ELP assessments, and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Critical Element	Additional Evidence Needed
	AELPA.
<b>6.1 – State Adoption of ELP Achievement Standards for All Students</b>	<p>For the ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State adopted ELP achievement standards that address the different proficiency levels of ELs.</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the State has developed alternate ELP achievement standards, evidence that it has adopted them only for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the regular ELP assessment even with appropriate accommodations.</li> </ul>
<b>6.2 – ELP Achievement Standards-Setting</b>	<p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State used a technically sound method and process for setting ELP achievement standards, such that cut scores are developed for every grade/grade band, content domain/language domain, and/or composite for which proficiency-level scores are reported.</li> </ul>
<b>6.3 – Aligned ELP Achievement Standards</b>	<p>For ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that ELP assessment results are expressed in terms that are clearly aligned with the State’s ELP standards and its ELP performance level descriptors.</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the State has developed alternate ELP achievement standards, evidence that the alternate ELP achievement standards are linked to the State’s grade-level/grade-band ELP standards and reflect professional judgment of the highest ELP achievement standards possible for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</li> </ul>
<b>6.4 – Reporting</b>	<p>For ACCESS and the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State reports to the public its assessment results on English language proficiency for all ELs including the number and percentage of ELs attaining ELP.</li> <li>• Evidence that the State provides information about each student’s attainment of the State’s ELP standards to parents that are, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent or guardian with limited English proficiency, are orally translated for such parent or guardian.</li> <li>• Evidence that student reports are, upon request by an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.</li> </ul> <p>For the Alternate ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that performance level descriptors are included on student score reports.</li> </ul>



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Peer Review of State Assessment Systems

## April State ELP Assessment Peer Review Notes



U. S. Department of Education  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Note: Peer review notes provide the combined recommendations of the individual peers to the U.S. Department of Education (Department), based on the statute and regulations, the Department's peer review guidance, and the peers' professional judgement of the evidence submitted by the State. These assessment peer review notes, however, do not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for assessment peer review. Although the peer notes inform the Secretary's consideration of each State's assessment system, the Department makes the final decision regarding whether the assessment system meets the requirements in the statute and regulations. As a result, these peer notes may not completely align with the final determination made by the Department.

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Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

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Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**SECTION 1: STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS**

**Critical Element 1.1 – State Adoption of ELP Standards for All English Learners**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><i>For English language proficiency (ELP) standards:</i></p> <p>The State formally adopted K-12 ELP standards for all ELs in public schools in the State.</p>		<p>See states</p>
<p><b>Section 1.1 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:  <b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence to be provided by states.</li> </ul> </p>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 1.2 – Coherent and Progressive ELP Standards that Correspond to the State’s Academic Content Standards**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><b>For ELP standards:</b> The ELP standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are derived from the four domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing;</li> <li>• address the different proficiency levels of ELs; and</li> </ul> <p>align to the State academic content standards (see definition<sup>1</sup>). The ELP standards must contain language proficiency expectations that reflect the language needed for ELs to acquire and demonstrate their achievement of the knowledge and skills identified in the State’s academic content standards appropriate to each grade-level/grade-band in at least reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>1.2-1 Understanding the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards</p> <p>1.2-2 English Language Proficiency Standards PreKindergarten through Grade 5</p> <p>1.2-3 2012 Amplification of The English Language Development Standards</p> <p>1.2-4 Alignment Study between the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards, 2007 Edition, PreKindergarten through Grade 12</p> <p>1.2-5 K–12 English Language Development Standards Validation 2016</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>The Peers felt that evidence with regards to the following aspects of the critical element were missing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “align to the State academic content standards”</li> <li>• “... reflect the language needed for ELs to acquire and demonstrate their achievement of the knowledge and skills identified in the State’s academic content standards...”</li> </ul> <p>The history of alignment work was not clear with regards to how it impacted future development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, alignment studies claim to align to CCSS but the standards were written prior to the CCSS. The alignment study was conducted prior to development of CCSS?</li> <li>• From Section 1 of WIDA submission notes (p.2 column 3), “The 2012 Amplification... strengthened areas that 2016 validation study identified as not having strong alignment to content standards...” How can a document dated 2012 address issues identified in 2016?</li> </ul> <p>It is not clear what actions were taken to remediate or address the findings of the various alignment studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence 1.2-4. Conducted in 2010, this study used Cook’s criteria to examine linking and alignment of the WIDA ELP Standards MPIs and the CCSS in ELA and mathematics. The study results indicate adequate linking across all grade clusters between the WIDA ELP Standards MPIs and the CCSS in English</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> see page 24 of “*A State’s Guide to the U.S. Department of Education’s Assessment Peer Review Process*”, September 24, 2018 available at: [www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html](http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html)

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p>The Alternate ACCESS uses the same ELP Standards as ACCESS. No additional evidence provided. However, WIDA is using the Alternate Model Performance Indicators (AMPIs). Are these extensions of the ELP Standards or separate standards?</p>	<p>Language Arts (RWSL) and Mathematics. Strong Linking was observed in most grade clusters. Moderate Linking was observed in Reading grades K, 3-5, Writing grades 2, 3-5, 7, 9-12, and Mathematics grades K, 6, 7, and 9-12. However, the study noted that Limited Linking was observed in ELA Writing grade K and Mathematics grade 8. Reviewer comments state that limited Linking on some reporting categories indicated that the language functions and content stems in some MPIs did not adequately address or support those in the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p>Given the changes to the program since 2010, including the Amplification in 2012, an updated alignment study is warranted.</p> <p>There was no evidence provided with regards to alignment for science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission notes indicate that WIDA has not conducted an alignment study between WIDA ELP standards and science or social studies standards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p>More information about the AMPIs needs to be provided. Are they intended to be extensions of the ELP standards or separate standards for Alternate ACCESS? Evidence of alignment is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.2-8, p. 3. “The test is based on Alternate Model Performance Indicators (AMPIs) and Alternate English Language Proficiency (ELP) levels, which allow ELLs with significant cognitive disabilities to access the test tasks and demonstrate their proficiency in English.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 1.2 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### **ACCESS**

- Current alignment evidence for ELA and Math including a plan to address findings
- Alignment to science standards

#### **Alternate ACCESS**

- Alignment of AMPIs to ELP standards

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 1.3 – Required Assessments**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
The State’s assessment system includes an <i>annual general and alternate ELP assessment</i> (aligned with State ELP standards) administered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All ELs in grades K-12.</li> </ul>	Reviewed by Department Staff Only	Reviewed by Department Staff Only
<b>Section 1.3 Summary Statement</b>		
<p>___ No additional evidence is required or</p> <p>___ The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale]</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 1.4 – Policies for Including All Students in Assessments**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State has policies that require the inclusion <i>of all public elementary and secondary ELs in the State’s ELP assessment</i>, including ELs with disabilities.</li> </ul>	Reviewed by Department Staff Only	Reviewed by Department Staff Only
<b>Section 1.4 Summary Statement</b>		
<p>___ No additional evidence is required or</p> <p>___ The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale]</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 1.5 – Meaningful Consultation in the Development of Challenging State Standards and Assessments**

(Note: this is a new requirement under ESSA, so it does not apply to standards and assessments adopted prior to the passage of ESSA (December 2015)).

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>If the State has developed or amended challenging <i>ELP</i> standards and assessments, the State has conducted meaningful and timely consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State leaders, including the Governor, members of the State legislature and State board of education (if the State has a State board of education).</li> <li>• Local educational agencies (including those located in rural areas).</li> <li>• Representatives of Indian tribes located in the State.</li> <li>• Teachers, principals, other school leaders, charter school leaders (if the State has charter schools), specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, administrators, other staff, and parents.</li> </ul>	<p>Reviewed by Department Staff Only</p>	<p>Reviewed by Department Staff Only</p>
<p><b>Section 1.5 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale]</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

**SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

**Critical Element 2.1 – Test Design and Development**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State’s test design and test development process is well-suited for the content, is technically sound, aligns the assessments to <i>the depth and breadth of the State’s ELP standards</i>, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement(s) of the purposes of the assessments and the intended interpretations and uses of results;</li> <li>• Test blueprints that describe the structure of each assessment in sufficient detail to support the development of assessments that are technically sound, measure the depth and breadth of <i>the State’s ELP standards</i>, and support the intended interpretations and uses of the results.</li> <li>• Processes to ensure that the ELP assessment is tailored to the knowledge and skills included in <i>the State’s ELP standards</i> and reflects appropriate inclusion of the range of complexity found in the standards.</li> <li>• If the State administers computer-adaptive assessments, the item pool and item selection procedures adequately support the test design and intended uses and interpretations of results.</li> <li>• If the State administers a computer-adaptive assessment, it makes proficiency determinations with respect to the grade in which the</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Statement of purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-1, p.3</li> <li>• 2.1-2, p.5</li> </ul> <p><u>Test blueprints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-2, p.19-23</li> <li>• Description of multistage adaptive administration provided.</li> </ul> <p><u>Knowledge, skills, range of complexity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.2-3</li> <li>• 2.1-2, pp. 9-11.</li> </ul> <p><u>Item pool and selection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No evidence provided.</li> </ul> <p><u>Grade-level of student</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on grade level clusters</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Statement of purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-1 and Table 2 (p.11) in 2.1-3 explicitly address intended purposes and interpretations.</li> </ul> <p><u>Test blueprints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The test blueprints are not provided. It appears that the description of how test items are assigned to student, based on the PL of their responses in the domains of RWLS and paired with academic areas, serve as the test blueprint for each student. The placement of the student in the proficiency level is explained, but it is not clear if the items assigned to a student adequately measure the depth and breadth of the ELP Standards.</li> <li>• Evidence that the ACCESS assessments adhere to the blueprint for both online and paper.</li> </ul> <p><u>Knowledge, skills, range of complexity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general description is provided of how each domain for RWLS is assessed. However, it is not clear if each student is assessed on an adequate number and range of items to ascertain an appropriate inclusion of items across the range of complexity.</li> <li>• Additional information regarding routing rules and their adequacy.</li> <li>• Evidence regarding the range of complexity of the items (e.g. blueprints).</li> <li>• It is not clear, if each student takes all these items and if all or a subset of the items represents an</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

<p>student is enrolled and uses that determination for all reporting. If the State administers a content assessment that includes portfolios, such assessment may be partially administered through a portfolio but may not be <i>entirely</i> administered through a portfolio.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Statement of purpose</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-3, p. 3 and 2.1-4, p. 1.</li> </ul> <p><u>Test blueprints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blueprints are referenced 2.1-4, p. 4. “Because the test blueprints across grade-level clusters by domain are the same and the Alternate PLs and AMPIs for the test tasks across grade-level clusters pose nearly identical linguistic challenges and differ only in the topics presented, it is desirable to have common cut scores across grade-level clusters by domain.”</li> <li>• However, blueprints were not provided.</li> </ul> <p><u>Range of complexity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No evidence provided.</li> </ul>	<p>appropriate inclusion of the range of complexity found in the ELP standards.</p> <p><u>Item pool and selection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence is needed regarding the item pool and item selection procedures.</li> </ul> <p><u>Grade-level (grade bands)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is not enough information provided with regards to items in each pool and the relationship to the grade bands. Can items be tagged to multiple item pools?</li> <li>• Are all the items in the pool age appropriate?</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Test blueprints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No evidence provided.</li> </ul> <p>No evidence of Processes to ensure that the ELP assessment is tailored to the knowledge and skills included in <i>the State’s ELP standards</i> and reflects appropriate inclusion of the range of complexity found in the standards.</p>
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Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 2.1 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### **ACCESS**

- Test blueprints
- Evidence of Processes to ensure that the ELP assessment is tailored to the knowledge and skills included in *the State's ELP standards* and reflects appropriate inclusion of the range of complexity found in the standards. E.g. detail about the routing rules, detail of the item selection process for paper forms to ensure it adheres to the blueprint
- Evidence of the adequacy of the item pool and item selection procedures to support the multistage adaptive administrations.
- Evidence that all the items in the pool are age and grade appropriate

#### **Alternate ACCESS**

- Test blueprints
- Evidence of Processes to ensure that the Alternate ELP assessment is tailored to the knowledge and skills included in *the State's ELP standards* and reflects appropriate inclusion of the range of complexity found in the standards. E.g. detail of the item selection process to ensure forms adhere to the blueprint

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 2.2 – Item Development**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State uses reasonable and technically sound procedures to develop and select items to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess student English language proficiency based on the <i>State’s ELP standards</i> in terms of content and language processes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.2-3: conveys the ACCESS Test Development Cycle, which includes steps of item specifications, item development, item reviews, field test</li> <li>2.2-4: Sample item specifications for Speaking, L1, 3, 5</li> <li>2.2-5: Sample item specification for SS, Listening, grades 6-8</li> <li>2.2-6: Sample item specification for MA, Reading, grades 9-12</li> <li>2.2-7: Sample item specification for Language, Writing, grades 3-5</li> <li>2.2-9: Center for Applied Linguistics Item development content experts</li> <li>2.2-10: Teachers who are standards experts</li> <li>2.2-11: Item Writing Handbook for Reading and Listening (confidential)</li> <li>2.2-12, 2.2-13: Training Module for item and bias and sensitivity reviews. Not evident the number of reviewers, how they were selected, if they were representative of WIDA states, representative of races and ethnicities, special education, academic content</li> <li>2.2-14: procedures for test developers. Information is not provided about how the item writers are trained, if they are content experts, other qualifications.</li> <li>2.2-15 Cog Labs for Enhanced Items. This is a sample of one cog lab finding. Information is not provided about the number of cog labs conducted, for what purpose, findings, and implications.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>Detail about the test development process was not included. E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timeline (across versions, series, domains)</li> <li>Item writers (Were they the 9 CAL item writing staff?) identification, qualification, representation of special education expertise including English learner with disabilities expertise</li> <li>Item writing training</li> <li>Item review process (how often this was done or what the outcomes were)</li> <li>Item reviewer qualifications. While 2.2.10 was provided. Detail was lacking with regards to other review groups and the inclusion of Special Education expertise (i.e., ELs with disabilities expertise)</li> <li>Field test process for each domain including target sample size rationales and the outcomes based on the data</li> <li>TAC involvement and/or review</li> </ul> <p>The Peers were looking for the level of information that is commonly included in the Test Development chapter of a Technical Manual and/or Item Development Manual.</p>

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**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-2, pp. 24-25. It is not apparent if the considerably smaller sample size for field</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does 2.2-3 apply to Alternate ACCESS?</li> <li>• If not, no evidence was provided.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence was not provided.</li> <li>• It is not evident that experts with knowledge of English language learners with significant cognitive disabilities are included in the development of Alternate ACCESS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 2.2 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of reasonable and technically sound procedures to develop and select items, e.g.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline (across versions, series, domains)</li> <li>• Item writers, identification, qualification, representation of special education expertise including English learner with disabilities expertise</li> <li>• Item writing training</li> <li>• Item review process including item reviewer qualifications</li> <li>• Field test process for each domain including target sample size rationales and the outcomes based on the data</li> <li>• Evidence of TAC involvement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of reasonable and technically sound procedures to develop and select items</li> <li>• Evidence of the involvement of experts with knowledge of English language learners with significant cognitive disabilities in development activities.</li> </ul>		

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**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 2.3 – Test Administration**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State implements policies and procedures for standardized test administration; specifically, the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has established and communicates to educators clear, thorough and consistent standardized procedures for the administration of its assessments, including administration with accommodations;</li> <li>• Has established procedures to ensure that general and special education teachers, paraprofessionals, teachers of ELs, specialized instructional support personnel, and other appropriate staff receive necessary training to administer assessments and know how to administer accommodations during assessments for all students with disabilities;</li> <li>• If the State administers technology-based assessments, the State has defined technology and other related requirements, included technology-based test administration in its standardized procedures for test administration, and established contingency plans to address possible technology challenges during test administration.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Communicates clear standardized procedures for administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3-1 Test Administration Manual</li> <li>• 2.3-3 Script for Administrator</li> <li>• 2.3-4 weekly emails with updates for SEAs and LEAs</li> <li>• The TAM does not define who can be a test administrator.</li> </ul> <p><u>Established procedures for training administrators including on accommodations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3-2 Training materials</li> <li>• 2.216 Accessibility and Accommodations</li> </ul> <p><u>Defined technology requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3-5 Technical Readiness Checklist</li> <li>• 2.3-6 Troubleshooting</li> </ul> <p><u>Established contingency plans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3-7 p.12-13 Critical incidents communication plan, not really a contingency plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Communicates clear standardized procedures for administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This WIDA policy handbook does include references about test administrators, “designated testing staff or volunteers who will have access to secure test materials complete TA training for the applicable tests.” p. 4. The same criteria appear to apply to those scoring and transcribing student responses. The Peers question the appropriateness of volunteers serving as test administrators. While the States may be responsible for test administrations, WIDA should include guidelines or recommended qualifications of test administrators to ensure test security and protect the validity of scores.</li> <li>• More information about the qualifications and training for the human providers of accommodations (e.g. scribe, reader, sign language interpreter).</li> </ul> <p><u>Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional information regarding the test administrator training is needed (e.g. for each module, the table of contents and outline)</li> <li>• Information about how volunteers access training materials. Do they access it via the secure online system?</li> <li>• Information regarding the training of the test administrator to score the student responses for the paper test.</li> </ul> <p><u>Established contingency plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although troubleshooting was addressed, evidence was not provided of a contingency plan to include directions to test administrators in the event of</li> </ul>

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**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

	<p align="center"><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3-1, pp. 12-13. Explain that training must be completed, preferably 2 weeks prior to test administration and that administrator must pass a quiz with at least 80% correct.</li> <li>• It is not likely that accommodations would be addressed in the training since there are no accommodations, rather all “individualized instructional supports” are permitted.</li> </ul>	<p>disruptions or widespread administration challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A communication plan was included; however, there was not information about how test administrators should manage situations like a lockdown or widespread inaccessibility of the assessments.</li> </ul> <p align="center"><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Communicates clear standardized procedures for administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3-1 Test Administrator Manual, Part 1 is for all test administrators; specific test administration procedures are in Part 2. Alternate ACCESS – pp. 140-165</li> <li>• There is no statement as to who may be a test administrator.</li> <li>• There are no participation guidelines provided.</li> <li>• p. 143. “During the administration of Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, individualized instructional supports that are used by teachers in everyday classroom instruction may be used to meet individual student needs, only if <u>they do change</u> what is being measured on the assessment.” Is this an accurate statement? If the wording should be “if they <u>do not change</u> what is being measured,” do test administrators understand how to determine this?</li> <li>• It is noted that no examples of permissible “individualized instructional supports that are used by teachers in everyday classroom instruction” are provided. If individualized instructional supports are provided, it is unlikely the administrator will be aware what supports are not permissible.</li> </ul>
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**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no description related to allowable student response modes, e.g., pointing, eye-gaze, etc. This should be included in this section.</li> <li>• Why does the student need a sharpened pencil if another mode of response will be used?</li> <li>• P. 149. “In order to allow the student to demonstrate his or her proficiency, any evidence of engagement that is typical for that student in an instructional setting should be scored as a correct response.” How has “evidence of engagement” been validated as a correct response and demonstration of English language proficiency?</li> <li>• There does not appear to be adequate examples of what “approaches” means vs an incorrect response</li> <li>• P. 154 “If a student asks for an explanation of some word or phrase in a task statement, check to make sure that the student understood your pronunciation of the word or phrase.” It is a concern that direction for how to do this is not provided. Does this mean repeat the word/phrase? Does it mean to ask the student if he/she understood the pronunciation?</li> <li>• How is the test administered to a student who is deaf or hard of hearing? Blind or visually impaired? Does not have oral speech or has a combination of these disabilities in addition to an intellectual disability?</li> <li>• Are tracing and repeating a sound reflective of ELP standards?</li> </ul> <p>Based on the information cited above, the test administration policies and procedures need to more appropriately reflect the characteristics of the students participating in the assessment and the diverse ways they respond to assessment items (e.g. eye gaze, use of assistive technology). Involvement of experts who have experience with assessing English learners with significant cognitive</p>
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**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

		<p>disabilities is needed to develop policies and an updated TAM for Alternate ACCESS.</p> <p><u>Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content of the training is not provided. Is scoring practice included (i.e., how to score attending and approaching)?</li> <li>• Training on “individualized instructional supports that are used by teachers in everyday classroom instruction” that are permissible for use during the assessment.</li> </ul> <p>WIDA providing resources for training. States will need to provide evidence that administrators completed training.</p>
<p><b>Section 2.3 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that WIDA/State established and communicates to educators clear, thorough and consistent standardized procedures for the administration of its assessments, including administration with accommodations E.g. guidelines or recommended qualifications of test administrators including volunteers, training of volunteers, and qualifications and training for the human providers of accommodations</li> <li>• Evidence of established procedures to ensure that general and special education teachers, paraprofessionals, teachers of ELs, specialized instruction support personnel, and other appropriate staff receive necessary training to administer assessments and know how to administer assessments, including, as necessary, alternate assessments, and know how to make use of appropriate accommodations during assessments for all students with disabilities E.g. content of training modules, the way in which volunteers access training materials, and the training of administrators to score the paper test</li> <li>• Evidence of established contingency plans to address possible technology challenges during test administration</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that WIDA/State established and communicates to educators clear, thorough and consistent standardized procedures for the administration of its assessments, including administration with accommodations E.g. response modes, detail about defining correct responses, permissible supports.</li> <li>• Evidence that the policies and procedures were developed with involvement of experts who have experience with assessing English learners with significant cognitive disabilities</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

- Evidence of established procedures to ensure that general and special education teachers, paraprofessionals, teachers of ELs, specialized instruction support personnel, and other appropriate staff receive necessary training to administer assessments and know how to administer assessments, including, as necessary, alternate assessments, and know how to make use of appropriate accommodations during assessments for all students with disabilities

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 2.4 – Monitoring Test Administration**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
The State adequately monitors the administration of its State assessments to ensure that standardized test administration procedures are implemented with fidelity across districts and schools. Monitoring of test administration should be demonstrated for all assessments in the State system: the general ELP assessments and the AELPA.	Reviewed by Department Staff Only	Reviewed by Department Staff Only
<b>Section 2.4 Summary Statement</b>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale]</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 2.5 – Test Security**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>The State has implemented and documented an appropriate set of policies and procedures to prevent test irregularities and ensure the integrity of test results through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention of any assessment irregularities, including maintaining the security of test materials (both during test development and at time of test administration), proper test preparation guidelines and administration procedures, incident-reporting procedures, consequences for confirmed violations of test security, and requirements for annual training at the district and school levels for all individuals involved in test administration;</li> <li>• Detection of test irregularities;</li> <li>• Remediation following any test security incidents involving any of the State’s assessments;</li> <li>• Investigation of alleged or factual test irregularities.</li> <li>• Application of test security procedures to the general ELP assessments and the AELPA.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5-1 District and School Coordinator manual, p. 8-15, outlines security responsibilities</li> <li>• No information about security during development</li> <li>• p. 9. If test security has been compromised in any way, please contact your state education agency to determine remediation steps.</li> <li>• 2.3-1, pp. 11, 16-30. Test Administrator Manual. Limited information related to test security is provided; on p. 16 the statement, “Be aware that any breaches of test security or problems with test administration may result in the invalidation of student scores.” Further consequences are not cited.</li> <li>• p. 10, “If test security has been compromised in any way, please contact your Test Coordinator to determine remediation steps.”</li> <li>• 2.3-3, pp. 4, 5, 10 Test Administrator’s Script – Limited statements related to test security in script; reminding test administrators they must complete training and be certified to administer test and to make sure students only have test materials on desk.</li> <li>• 2.3-7, p. 5 Test Policy Handbook for SEAs, indicates test coordinators can track educators’ training completion prior to administering the test.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3-1, same as ACCESS, no additional information on test security provided.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No delineation of responsibilities of test security between WIDA and the states was provided.</li> <li>• Evidence of security procedures during development</li> <li>• Recommended guidelines or minimum standards for test security for states to implement. Information contained in cited evidence is too general given the impact of test security on the validity of the program.</li> <li>• The following topics related to test security were not located in the evidence provided: requirements for annual training at district and school levels for all individuals involved in test administration, detection of test irregularities, remediation, investigation of alleged or factual test irregularities, monitoring test administrations, transcriptions of student dictation, scoring conducted by individual staff or volunteers, who can a test administrator, the volunteers who can have access to secure test materials.</li> <li>• Forensics analysis and plans to address findings should be performed by WIDA to include data across states. 4.7-10, p. 2 Committee notes indicate that leadership acknowledges that forensics analysis has not been conducted for this critical element.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No evidence provided beyond that in the ACCESS materials.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 2.5 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### **ACCESS**

- Outline the delineation of responsibilities of test security between WIDA and the states, and include recommended guidelines or minimum standards for test security for states to implement
- Evidence of security procedures during test development
- Evidence of activities that prevent assessment irregularities, including maintaining the security of test materials (both during test development and at time of test administration), proper test preparation guidelines and administration procedures, incident-reporting procedures, consequences for confirmed violations of test security, and requirements for annual training at the district and school levels for all individuals involved in test administration;
- Evidence of detection of test irregularities;
- Evidence of remediation following any test security incidents involving any of the State's assessments;
- Evidence of the investigation of alleged or factual test irregularities to include forensic analysis and plans to address findings

#### **Alternate ACCESS**

- Evidence related to all aspects of this critical element are needed

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 2.6 – Systems for Protecting Data Integrity and Privacy**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity and confidentiality of its test materials, test-related data, and personally identifiable information, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect the integrity of its test-related data in test administration, scoring, storage and use of results;</li> <li>To secure student-level assessment data and protect student privacy and confidentiality, including guidelines for districts and schools;</li> <li>To protect personally identifiable information about any individual student in reporting, including defining the minimum number of students necessary to allow reporting of scores for all students and student groups.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Security of data in research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.6-1 WIDA Research IRB Application pp. 20-24. WIDA’s process, “...includes provisions to ensure that only those conducting research or evaluating tests have access to test-related data and that only a few key individuals have access to identifying student data.”</li> <li>2.6-2 Data use agreement, signed by states</li> <li>2.6-3 Training completed by UW-Madison staff related to research.</li> <li>2.6-4 Technical Assistance Policy. “All data requests are encrypted and delivered via WIDA’s STFP site.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence specific to Alternate ACCESS was submitted.</li> <li>2.6-1 applies to Alternate ACCESS.</li> <li>2.6-2 does not reference Alternate ACCESS</li> <li>2.6-3 applies to Alternate ACCESS</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence has been provided related to research using WIDA data.</li> <li>The parties involved in handling data for WIDA are unclear. More information related to who is involved and how data are protected by all parties and during handoffs is required.</li> <li>Additional evidence is required from states to address the remaining aspects of the critical element.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 2.6 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information related to who is involved in handling WIDA data and how data are protected by all parties, including during handoffs, is required.</li> <li>Additional evidence is required from states to address the remaining aspects of the critical element.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

SECTION 3: TECHNICAL QUALITY – VALIDITY

Critical Element 3.1 – Overall Validity, Including Validity Based on Content

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has documented adequate overall validity evidence for its assessments consistent with nationally recognized professional and technical testing standards. The State’s validity evidence includes evidence that:</p> <p><i>The State’s ELP assessments</i> measure the knowledge and skills specified in the State’s ELP standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of adequate alignment between the State’s ELP assessment and the ELP standards the assessment is designed to measure in terms of language knowledge and skills, the depth and breadth of the State’s ELP standards, across all proficiency levels, domains, and modalities identified therein;</li> <li>• Documentation of alignment (as defined) between the State’s ELP standards and the language demands implied by, or explicitly stated in, the State’s academic content standards;</li> <li>• If the State administers an AELPA aligned with alternate ELP achievement standards, the assessment shows adequate linkage to the State’s ELP standards in terms of content match (i.e., no unrelated content) and that the breadth of content and linguistic complexity</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Validity evidence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAL’s Validation Framework, Evidence 2.1-5, p. 25-38</li> </ul> <p><u>Content alignment between standards and assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence 3.1-1, 2011 Alignment study for ACCESS, no information regarding how areas identified in the study will be addressed. Standards have been updated since this study.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Validity evidence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciate the work of the framework.</li> </ul> <p><u>Content alignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peers found it challenging to follow the development and subsequent alignment issues over time, especially given the changes that occurred within the program. It seems that some of the studies may be outdated and no longer relevant.</li> <li>• 4.7-10, p. 2 Committee notes indicate leadership is aware that this evidence will not meet the alignment requirement of 3.1</li> <li>• For the alignment studies that are still relevant (despite program changes), what is the plan to address areas for which alignment was moderate, limited, weak, or no?</li> <li>• Alignment based on 2012 Amplification is needed.</li> <li>• 3.1.2 is an example blueprint but there is limited information regarding how the tests should be specified. For example, there is no indication on the blueprint that would indicate the degree of cognitive complexity (linguistic difficulty level) across the tests by standard. Depth and breadth cannot be determined based on the information in the test blueprint provided.</li> </ul> <p><u>Alignment of language demands</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clarity in the relationship between DOK (for standards) and LDL (for items to standards).</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

<p>determined in test design is appropriate for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</p>	<p><u>Alignment of language demands</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence 3.1-1, 2011 Alignment study for ACCESS, no information regarding how areas identified in the study will be addressed. Standards have been updated since this study.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer Review narrative, 3.1, p. 2. “There has not yet been an independent alignment study between the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment and the alternate model performance indicators (AMPis), nor has there been a linking study examining the relationship between the AMPis and WIDA’s ELP standards.”</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence for this critical element including plans to address any issues following the 2019 study.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 3.1 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation of adequate alignment between the State’s ELP assessment and the ELP standards the assessment is designed to measure in terms of language knowledge and skills, the depth and breadth of the State’s ELP standards, across all proficiency levels, domains, and modalities identified therein;</li> <li>Documentation of alignment (as defined) between the State’s ELP standards and the language demands implied by, or explicitly stated in, the State’s academic content standards</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of adequate linkage to the State’s ELP standards in terms of content match (i.e., no unrelated content) and that the breadth of content and linguistic complexity determined in test design is appropriate for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 3.2 – Validity Based on Linguistic Processes**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has documented adequate validity evidence that its assessments tap <i>the intended language processes</i> appropriate for each grade level/grade-band as represented in the State’s ELP standards.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.2-1 &amp; 3.2-2, Writing try outs</li> <li>• 3.2-3, Recommendation log Unclear how this document was used and to which assessments it is relevant.</li> <li>• 2.1-2, DIF analysis by test, relevance to this critical element is not clear.</li> <li>• Not presented in a user-friendly way. Results are buried.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.2-4 Report from Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Pilot Testing, November 14–23, 2011. “We gained rich, useful data which informed revisions to the test materials.”</li> <li>• Evidence is needed for this critical element.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While some evidence related to writing was provided, the validity argument related to this critical element was not provided for any domain.</li> <li>• It is unclear how the item tryouts fit into the item development process.</li> <li>• The relationship between the DIF analysis and this critical element is needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence is needed for this critical element.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 3.2 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate validity evidence that its assessments tap <i>the intended language processes</i> appropriate for each grade level/grade-band as represented in the State’s ELP standards</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 3.3 – Validity Based on Internal Structure**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has documented adequate validity evidence that the scoring and reporting structures of its assessments are consistent with the sub-domain structures of the State’s <i>ELP standards</i> on which the intended interpretations and uses of results are based.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.3-1, Relationship between domains, factor analysis supports reporting 4 domain scores</li> <li>• 2.1-2, p. 93-94, Correlation of domain scores</li> <li>• 2.1-5, p. 69-71, Correlation of domain scores</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-4, p. 60-61, 70 Higher for Alternate, might be helpful to include an explanation or rationale for why this is reasonable.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence is provided for this critical element. However, explicit statements of how the statistics lend validity evidence is missing. Were there criteria applied to the various statistical analyses included in this critical element, and if so, what were they and what rationales were there for using them to determine the appropriateness of the results?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 3.3 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:  <b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation of how the included statistical analyses relate to the validity framework for the assessments.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 3.4 – Validity Based on Relations to Other Variables**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has documented adequate validity evidence that the State’s assessment scores are related as expected with other variables.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.4-8 Bridge study, 2006</li> <li>• 3.4-9, factor analysis and SEM exploring language skills and math (year unknown)</li> <li>• 3.1-11 Relationship between ACCESS domain scores and NECAP reading, writing, and math assessments from 2009</li> <li>• Evidence does not include studies that were done with the current version of the assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Evidence here should focus on the relationship with “other variables” and should provide information about how the “scores are related as expected.” Therefore, much of the cited evidence is not sufficient.</p> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-4 Annual Technical Report for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, 2015-16 Administration, pp. 60-61. Correlations among Scale Scores by Grade-level Cluster.</li> <li>• No relevant evidence was provided.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To fully address this standard, evidence of how the “scores are related as expected to other variables” is required.</li> <li>• This additional evidence would also link the study findings to the validity framework.</li> <li>• Additional studies are needed with the current version of the assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence related to this critical element is needed.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 3.4 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### **ACCESS**

- Evidence of how the “scores are related as expected to other variables” is required and how this supports the validity argument
- Additional studies are needed with the current version of the assessment.

#### **Alternate ACCESS**

- Adequate validity evidence that the State’s assessment scores are related as expected with other variables.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL QUALITY – OTHER

**Critical Element 4.1 – Reliability**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has documented adequate reliability evidence for its assessments for the following measures of reliability for the State’s student population overall and each student group consistent with nationally recognized professional and technical testing standards. If the State’s assessments are implemented in multiple States, measures of reliability for the assessment overall and each student group consistent with nationally recognized professional and technical testing standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test reliability of the State’s assessments estimated for its student population (<i>for ELP assessments, including any domain or component sub-tests, as applicable</i>);</li> <li>• Overall and conditional standard error of measurement of the State’s assessments, including any domain or component sub-tests, as applicable;</li> <li>• Consistency and accuracy of estimates in categorical classification decisions for the cut scores, achievement levels or proficiency levels based on the assessment results;</li> <li>• For computer-adaptive tests, evidence that the assessments produce test forms with adequately</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-2, provided by domain</li> <li>• No subgroup information</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the various statistics (e.g. Cronbach’s alpha, decision consistency, TIF) are provided at the composite and domain levels, they are not computed for any subgroups, such as gender and SES, accommodation type.</li> <li>• Accuracy and consistency measures for some composite scores and domains appeared low (see for example 2.1-2 p.345, p.167-168). If the proficiency levels are used to make decisions for these measures, then this needs to be addressed. The Peers’ understanding is that states can make decisions regarding the way in which scores are used to make decisions. Does WIDA provide more guidance given the reliability information?</li> <li>• While it may have been done, the Peers could not locate, for computer-adaptive tests, evidence that the assessments produce test forms with adequately precise estimates of <i>an EL’s English proficiency</i>. Given the multistage adaptive administrations, the Peers were looking for evidence that WIDA has considered the reliability of the forms, or pathways, across students.</li> <li>• A large amount of statistical output was provided; however, there was not information or narrative about how this information is interpreted by WIDA and will be used to guide future development work within the program. For example, are there areas for which WIDA will focus efforts and try to improve in the future? For example, this could include TAC notes from the discussion of these statistics.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>precise estimates of <i>an EL's English proficiency</i>.</p>	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1.4 Annual Technical Report for Alternate ACCESS, 2015-16, pp. 73-80. "In general, the reliability and the accuracy and consistency of classification of the Overall Composite are very high for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs."</li> <li>• Reliability information for overall composite scores was located (p. 109, 138, 165, 194).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While various reliability estimates (Cronbach's alpha, decisions consistency) are reported for some composite scores and domains, the Peers could not locate the TIFs for the overall composite scores.</li> <li>• While the various statistics (e.g. Cronbach's alpha, decision consistency, TIF) are provided at the composite and domain levels, they are not computed for any subgroups, such as gender and SES, accommodation type.</li> <li>• Accuracy and consistency measures for some composite scores and domains appeared low (see for example 2.1-4 p.96, p.102). If the proficiency levels are used to make decisions for these measures, then this needs to be addressed. The Peers' understanding is that states can make decisions regarding the way in which scores are used to make decisions. Does WIDA provide more guidance given the reliability information?</li> <li>• A large amount of statistical output was provided; however, there was not information or narrative about how this information is interpreted by WIDA and will be used to guide future development work within the program. For example, are there areas for which WIDA will focus efforts and try to improve in the future? For example, this could include TAC notes from the discussion of these statistics.</li> </ul> <p>For future submissions and the benefit of the program, it would be beneficial for WIDA to provide the reliability information in a more user-friendly format. Narrative summaries would be helpful to the Peers and other audiences in addition to the various page number references.</p>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<b>Section 4.1 Summary Statement</b>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliability by various subgroups</li> <li>• Evidence that the use of scores, including composite and domain, is supported by the reliability statistics and then is used to provide direction to states about the appropriate use of scores in high-stakes decisions (e.g. exit decisions).</li> <li>• Evidence that the reliability results are reviewed by WIDA and used to inform ongoing maintenance and development.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For computer-adaptive tests, evidence that the assessments produce test forms with adequately precise estimates of <i>an EL's English proficiency</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TIFs for overall composite scores</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 4.2 – Fairness and Accessibility**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><i>For all State ELP assessments,</i> assessments should be developed, to the extent practicable, using the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) (see definition<sup>2</sup>).</p> <p><i>For ELP assessments,</i> the State has taken reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that its assessments are accessible to all EL students and fair across student groups, including ELs with disabilities, in their design, development, and analysis.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.2-17 The WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Framework, p. 4. Examples of universal design in ACCESS test items: Test items with multiple modalities, including supporting prompts with appropriate animations and graphics, Embedded scaffolding, tasks broken into “chunks”, modeling using task models and guides</li> <li>• 2.2-17, pp. 11-12. ACCESS also incorporates the use of universal tools that are available to all students, designated supports that are features available to any student, and accommodations for students with disabilities.</li> <li>• 4.2.1 Test and item Design Plan for the Annual Summative and On-demand Screener 2013, p. 14 indicates that items will be developed using the principles of universal design. No elaboration.</li> <li>• 4.2.2 Guidelines for the Use of Accommodations, Accessibility Features, and Allowable Test Administration Procedures for the ACCESS for ELLs</li> <li>• 4.2.3 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Accommodations, Accessibility Features, and Allowable Test Administration Procedures for Students Participating in Either the Online or Paper –Based Test Administrations</li> <li>• 4.2.4 Graphics Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While information is provided about WIDA’s approach to universal design and accessibility, there is limited information about the processes employed to implement the principles during development and review.</li> <li>• DIF was considered for gender and Hispanic/non-Hispanic, but this should be done for other subgroups as well (e.g., accommodated/non-accommodated, SES).</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> see page 28 of “*A State’s Guide to the U.S. Department of Education’s Assessment Peer Review Process*”, September 24, 2018 available at: [www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html](http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html)

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-2 Annual Technical Report for ACCESS for ELLs, DIF analysis for Hispanic/non-Hispanic and gender. Should include other subgroups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-4 Technical Report for Alternate ACCESS, p. 72-73. Not clear how this relates to the critical element.</li> <li>• 2.2-16, p. 36. Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Accommodation Selections. Only 3 accommodations indicated. Does not address use of braille, eye gaze, and other modes of communication.</li> <li>• Evidence similar to ACCESS submission is not included for Alternate ACCESS.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braille and alternate modes of communication are not addressed (e.g. eye gaze, assistive technology).</li> <li>• More guidance is needed about the appropriate instructional supports that can be used during the assessment. Recommend that permitted instructional supports be clearly defined for standardized test administration and for accessibility and fairness.</li> <li>• Evidence related to item development, test design, item reviews for Alternate ACCESS is not provided.</li> <li>• DIF was considered for gender and Hispanic/non-Hispanic, but this should be done for other subgroups as well (e.g., accommodation type, SES).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 4.2 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of the implementation of universal design and accessibility principles during development and review.</li> <li>• Additional DIF analyses to include more student subgroups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence related to braille and alternate modes of communication</li> <li>• Definitions of and guidance for appropriate instructional supports that can be used during the assessment</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 4.3 – Full Performance Continuum**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has ensured that each assessment provides an adequately precise estimate of student performance across the full performance continuum for <b>ELP assessments</b>, including performance for EL students with high and low levels of English language proficiency and with different proficiency profiles across the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-2 Annual Technical Report for ACCESS Online ELP Test 2016-17, pp. 95-110. Presents data from online tests that demonstrate students in each grade are represented at each proficiency level. Levels of item difficulty are presented in tables in subsequent pages.</li> <li>• 2.1-2 TIFs are commonly unexpected, for example p.201.</li> <li>• 2.1-5 Annual Technical Report for ACCESS Paper ELP Test 2016-17, pp. 72-91. Presents data from paper tests that demonstrate students in each grade are represented at each proficiency level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1.4 Annual Technical Report for Alternate ACCESS 2015-16, pp. 62-66. Displays tables demonstrating students in each grade are performing at each proficiency level.</li> <li>• 2.1-4 Frequency distributions show potential ceiling effects for example p.93.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence submitted does not support that each assessment provides an adequately precise estimate of student performance across the full performance continuum for <b>ELP assessments</b>, including performance for EL students with high and low levels of English language proficiency.</li> </ul> <p>For future submissions and the benefit of the program, it would be beneficial for WIDA to provide narrative summaries to the Peers and other audiences. For example, the Peers would have found it to be helpful if WIDA would have provided narrative about the unexpected TIFs in 2.1-2 and the frequency distributions in 2.1-4 as well as any additional analyses WIDA conducted in response to these results.</p>
<p><b>Section 4.3 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence submitted does not support that each assessment provides an adequately precise estimate of student performance across the full performance continuum for <b>ELP assessments</b>, including performance for EL students with high and low levels of English language proficiency.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 4.4 – Scoring**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has established and documented standardized scoring procedures and protocols for its assessments (and <i>for ELP assessments, any applicable domain or component sub-tests</i>) that are designed to produce reliable and meaningful results, facilitate valid score interpretations, and report assessment results in terms of the State’s <i>ELP standards</i>.</p> <p><i>For ELP assessments</i>, if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s), the State must provide a description of how it will ensure that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, and a description of how this will occur.<sup>3</sup></p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><i>Standardized scoring procedures and protocols</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.4-1 Speaking Scoring Scale</li> <li>• 4.4-2 Writing Scoring Scale</li> <li>• 4.4-3 Writing Anchors</li> <li>• 4.4-4 Training for Paper Speaking. 3 online Modules, 2 are required, 1 is recommended. A quiz must be taken to certify the taker may administer and score the speaking test. It is not indicated if the assessment will be accessible to the test administrator if this person does not pass the quiz.</li> <li>• 4.4-5 It is not indicated the audience for this document, how they receive it, or what training is provided in conjunction with receipt of this document. 4.4-6 Not clear how this relates to the critical element.</li> <li>• 4.4-8 Were the recommendations from this study and report implemented?</li> <li>• 2.1-2, pp. 12-15 Raters for Online Speaking and Writing Scoring: Rater qualifications, training, monitoring. Adjacent scores are considered agreement; raters must demonstrate 70% agreement on a qualifying set prior to scoring live responses. What happens when one is anomalous, for example task 6 on p.202? Writing task scoring statistics are questionable.</li> <li>• 2.1.5 Technical Report for ACCESS paper Administration 2016-17, pp. 18-23. Describes scoring procedures for writing scored by DRC and speaking scored by test administrator.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Peers found the claims of 95%+ agreement questionable for writing tasks.</li> <li>• There was no evidence provided about how WIDA makes use of the results, for example, when agreement rates are lower for one task.</li> <li>• 4.4-8 documented that paper scoring of speaking by the student’s teacher results in higher scores. Therefore, why is module 3 not required and how is the rating monitored to ensure reliable results? There are recommendations for monitoring raters who administer the speaking test in 4.4-8, but how are these recommendations implemented and monitored?</li> <li>• WIDA provided evidence of four models for states to consider if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s). States must provide a description of how it will ensure that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, and a description of how this will occur.</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> See full reference in regulation, 34 CFR § 200.6(h)(4)(ii) (online at [https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=07e168e9e7a6c5931b4549cc15547ee9&mc=true&node=se34.1.200\\_16&rgn=div8](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=07e168e9e7a6c5931b4549cc15547ee9&mc=true&node=se34.1.200_16&rgn=div8) )

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

	<p><i>Less than four domains</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.4-7 Four models are presented to create a composite score when less than four domains are assessed. No recommendations were made, rather these are suggestions of models that the states could use to report a composite score when a student with a disability is assessed in less than four domains. While this situation is considered, there is limited information provided to states to make defensible decisions for these students particularly with regards to the impact on the validity framework.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p><i>Standardized Scoring Procedures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-4 Scripts and directions for scoring are provided in the TAM and are referenced in the TR for Alternate ACCESS. All assessments are scored by the test administrator.</li> <li>• There is no evidence provided that standardized scoring procedures are applied given the local scoring.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no evidence of the implementation of standardized scoring procedures. This could include monitoring of test administration, a second scorer in the room during test administration, analyses of scores to identify test irregularities or qualification of scorers.</li> <li>• Definitions of key terms and test administration and scoring procedures (e.g. cueing, attending, approaching, permissible individualized instructional supports that can be used during assessment) are not included which likely leads to inconsistent administration and scoring.</li> <li>• WIDA provided evidence of four models for states to consider if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s). States must provide a description of how it will ensure that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, and a description of how this will occur.</li> </ul>
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Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

<b>Section 4.4 Summary Statement</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:		
<b>ACCESS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The definition of exact agreement for writing is not recommended. This should be redefined and then analyses redone.</li><li>• Evidence that the recommendations about the paper speaking test are implemented and monitored.</li></ul>		
<b>Alternate ACCESS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence of the implementation of standardized scoring procedures and monitoring and to include definitions of key terms and test administration and scoring procedures.</li></ul>		
<b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence that if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s), the State must provide a description of how it will ensure that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, and a description of how this will occur. (This is expected from States.)</li></ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 4.5 – Multiple Assessment Forms**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>If the State administers multiple forms of <i>ELP assessments</i> within or across grade-spans, ELP levels, or school years, the State ensures that all forms adequately represent the State’s <i>ELP standards</i> and yield consistent score interpretations such that the forms are comparable within and across settings.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-2 p.54 ACCESS Online. Equating summary for year to year analysis. Why isn’t Listening refreshed?</li> <li>• 2.1-5 ACCESS paper. Based on ACCESS Online. No equating for Reading and Listening. Aren’t the ACCESS 1.0 data out of date?</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-4 Alternate ACCESS. No equating. Same items since field test in 2013?</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evidence did not include sufficient information for Listening. Specifically, a rationale for why the test was not refreshed, a plan to refresh in the future and an explanation of the year to year use of item parameters (e.g. were item parameters for the domain used from previous years?).</li> <li>• The evidence did not include sufficient information for the paper version of Reading and Listening. Specifically, a rationale for why equating was not done.</li> <li>• No evidence included to demonstrate that the content representativeness of the anchor item sets are considered. Where applicable, a rationale for the use of anchor items over time and potential refreshment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evidence does not include a rationale for using the same items each year since 2013 and how this does not threaten the validity of the scores.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 4.5 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### **ACCESS**

- Additional evidence that the Listening domain yields consistent score interpretations such that the forms are comparable within and across settings
- Rationales for why equating is not done for the paper versions of the Reading and Listening domains
- Additional considerations and rationales related to the anchor item sets.

#### **Alternate ACCESS**

- Rationales for why item refreshment is not done and how this does not impact the validity of the scores.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 4.6 – Multiple Versions of an Assessment**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>If the State administers any of its assessments in multiple versions within a subject area (e.g., online versus paper-based delivery), grade level, or school year, the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Followed a design and development process to support comparable interpretations of results for students tested across the versions of the assessments;</li> <li>• Documented adequate evidence of comparability of the meaning and interpretations of the assessment results.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>Online and paper comparability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparability studies done, Evidence 4.6-1, 4.6-2, 4.6-6, 4.6-12</li> <li>• Results shared with TAC, Evidence 4.6-4, 4.6-5, 4.6-8 Based on input from TAC implemented equipercentile equating, Evidence 4.6-10, 4.6-11, 4.6-12, 4.6-13</li> <li>• Will continue to monitor</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the effect sizes found in 4.6-6, there is limited evidence of the degree to which these differences are explained by mode or if other factors may have contributed (e.g. impact of leniency in local scoring for speaking).</li> <li>• The narrative in this section was helpful in understanding how this critical element has been addressed over time including follow up actions taken after studies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 4.6 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 4.7 – Technical Analysis and Ongoing Maintenance**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a system for monitoring, maintaining, and improving, as needed, the quality of its assessment system, including clear and technically sound criteria for the analyses of all of the assessments in its assessment system (i.e., general assessments and alternate assessments), and</li> <li>Evidence of adequate technical quality is made public, including on the State’s website.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>System for monitoring, maintaining, improving</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular TAC meetings</li> <li>Subcommittees</li> <li>Concern about the ability to track all of the issues and address areas of improvement over time. Given the size and complexity of the program and given the evidence submitted for various critical elements, WIDA has not demonstrated that the various analyses and results are tracked over time.</li> </ul> <p><u>Made public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence is not provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence provided.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>System for monitoring, maintain, improving</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The TAC and subcommittees address many issues or topics; however, more broadly for the program, there appears to be a gap between the results of analyses and studies and the way in which that information is used to improve the program. These have been noted in other critical elements for specific analyses and studies. There is no evidence of a complete system (e.g., action plan, timelines, annual work plan).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Section 4.7 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of a system for monitoring, maintaining, and improving, as needed, the quality of its assessment system, including clear and technically sound criteria for the analyses of all of the assessments in its assessment system (i.e., general assessments and alternate assessments),</li> <li>Evidence of adequate technical quality is made public, including on the State’s website is not provided.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

SECTION 5: INCLUSION OF ALL STUDENTS

**Critical Element 5.1 – Procedures for Including Students with Disabilities**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has in place procedures to ensure the inclusion of all public elementary and secondary school students<sup>4</sup> with disabilities in the State’s assessment system. Decisions about how to assess students with disabilities must be made by a student’s IEP Team under IDEA, the placement team under Section 504, or the individual or team designated by a district to make that decision under Title II of the ADA, as applicable, based on each student’s individual abilities and needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>For ELP assessments</b>, policies that require the inclusion of an EL with a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected component (the State must assess the student’s English language proficiency based on the remaining components in which it is possible to assess the student).</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>2.2-16 Participation Guidelines, p.4, includes information for students who are deaf</p> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p>2.2-16 Recommended Participation Guidelines, p.27</p>	<p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p>This critical element is primarily addressed by states and informed by the information provided by WIDA.</p>

<sup>4</sup> For ELP peer review, this refers to ELs with disabilities.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 5.1 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### **ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS**

- Evidence to be provided by states.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 5.2 – DOES NOT APPLY to ELP Assessment Peer Review**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: This critical element does not apply to ELP assessments, as the requirements only apply to the inclusion of ELs in <b>academic assessments</b>.</li> </ul>		
<b>Section 5.2 Summary Statement</b>		
<p>___ No additional evidence is required or</p> <p>___ The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [list additional evidence needed w/brief rationale]</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 5.3 – Accommodations**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State makes available appropriate accommodations and ensures that its assessments are accessible to students with disabilities and ELs, including ELs with disabilities. Specifically, the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures that appropriate accommodations are available for ELs;</li> <li>• Has determined that the accommodations it provides (1) are appropriate and effective for meeting the individual student’s need(s) to participate in the assessments, (2) do not alter the construct being assessed, and (3) allow meaningful interpretations of results and comparison of scores for students who need and receive accommodations and students who do not need and do not receive accommodations;</li> <li>• Has a process to individually review and allow exceptional requests for a small number of students who require accommodations beyond those routinely allowed.</li> <li>• Ensures that accommodations for all required assessments do not deny students with disabilities or ELs the opportunity to participate in the assessment and any benefits from participation in the assessment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Appropriate accommodations available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.2-16 Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement, pp. 13-24. Sixteen accommodations with descriptions provided</li> <li>• pp. 30-32. Procedures to transcribe and scribe.</li> <li>• It is notable that there is a lack of specific qualifications for who can be a test administrator, transcriber and scribe.</li> <li>• 2.2-17 WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Framework</li> <li>• 2.3-1, 15. Test Administration Manual, lists allowable test accommodations.</li> <li>• 5.3-1 Screenshot of contents of online training modules; accommodations are included</li> <li>• 5.3-2 Screenshot. Not clear how this applies to accommodations</li> <li>• 5.3-6 SEA Accessibility and Accommodations Policies 2018-19. A template for SEA-specific policies. Do SEAs use this?</li> </ul> <p><u>Bullet 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.3-3 Findings from Focus Groups. This study focused on the use of technology and was limited in size. Several recommendations were made related to technology use; did not address alteration of construct being assessed or meaningful interpretation of results.</li> <li>• 5.3-4 Investigating K-12 ELs Use of Universal Tools Embedded in Online Language Assessments. Did not address accommodations, only universal tools.</li> <li>• Evidence here is limited.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the accommodations it provides (1) are appropriate and effective for meeting the individual student’s need(s) to participate in the assessments, (2) do not alter the construct being assessed, and (3) allow meaningful interpretations of results and comparison of scores for students who need and receive accommodations and students who do not need and do not receive accommodations;</li> <li>• Has a process to individually review and allow exceptional requests for a small number of students who require accommodations beyond those routinely allowed. WIDA provided a sample document in support of this, but the process will be implemented by the state.</li> <li>• It is unclear if WIDA requires all states to implement accommodations as outlined in the provided evidence or if states are permitted to alter these.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
	<p><u>Exceptional requests</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.3-7 Unique Accommodations Request Form – SEAs may adopt this form for use</li> </ul> <p><u>Accommodations do not deny swd or ELS opportunity to participate or benefit from participation in assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not addressed directly</li> <li>• No evidence that they are denied.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.2-16, p. 36. Only three accommodations are listed in the Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement. The use of braille, various response modes, etc. are not identified as accommodations. “Individualized instructional supports” are permitted, but these are not defined.</li> <li>• 2.3-1, p. 143 “During the administration of Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, individualized instructional supports that are used by teachers in everyday classroom instruction may be used to meet individual student needs, <i>only if they do change what is being measured on the assessment.</i>” Likely a typo. Permissible individualized instructional supports for use in the assessment need to be defined.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence for all aspects of this critical element are needed.</li> <li>• Evidence that students who need braille and/or alternate response modes are able to participate.</li> <li>• It is strongly recommended that the permissible individualized instructional supports be identified and described in the TAM and/or test administration script to ensure validity of test scores and reduce occurrence of test irregularities.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 5.3 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### ACCESS

- Evidence that the accommodations it provides (1) are appropriate and effective for meeting the individual student's need(s) to participate in the assessments, (2) do not alter the construct being assessed, and (3) allow meaningful interpretations of results and comparison of scores for students who need and receive accommodations and students who do not need and do not receive accommodations;
- Evidence of a process to individually review and allow exceptional requests for a small number of students who require accommodations beyond those routinely allowed. (Provided by states)

#### Alternate ACCESS

- Evidence is needed for all aspects of this critical element.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 5.4 – Monitoring Test Administration for Special Populations**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State monitors test administration in its districts and schools to ensure that appropriate assessments, with or without accommodations, are selected for all students with disabilities and ELs so that they are appropriately included in assessments and receive accommodations that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the State’s policies for accommodations;</li> <li>• Appropriate for addressing a student’s disability or language needs for each assessment administered;</li> <li>• Consistent with accommodations provided to the students during instruction and/or practice;</li> <li>• Consistent with the assessment accommodations identified by a student’s IEP Team under IDEA, placement team convened under Section 504; or for students covered by Title II of the ADA, the individual or team designated by a district to make these decisions; or another process for an EL;</li> <li>• Administered with fidelity to test administration procedures;</li> <li>• Monitored for administrations of all required ELP assessments, and AELPA.</li> </ul>		<p>See states</p>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 5.4 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### **ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS**

- Evidence to be provided by states.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

**SECTION 6: ELP ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS AND REPORTING**

**Critical Element 6.1 – State Adoption of ELP Achievement Standards for All Students**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><b><i>For ELP standards:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State adopted ELP achievement standards that address the different proficiency levels of ELs;</li> <li>• If the State has developed alternate ELP achievement standards, it has adopted them only for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the regular ELP assessment even with appropriate accommodations.</li> </ul>		<p>See states</p>
<p><b>Section 6.1 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:  <b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence to be provided by states.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 6.2 – ELP Achievement Standards Setting**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State used a technically sound method and process that involved panelists with appropriate experience and expertise for setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ELP achievement standards and, as applicable, alternate ELP achievement standards</b>, such that:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cut scores are developed for every grade/grade band, content domain/language domain, and/or composite for which proficiency-level scores are reported.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.1-1 Assessment Proficiency Level Scores Standard Setting Project Report. This report documents in detail the standard setting plan and rationale for the methodologies, processes used to identify and select panelists, the training provided panelists, and how the final recommendations were determined. The standard setting plan was reviewed by an outside expert; suggestions were made for refining some of the processes.</li> <li>• 6.1-2 Research Memorandum: Recommended Cuts. Standard setting and subsequent analysis resulted in recommendations for cut scores for grades K-12 for the four domains at six proficiency levels as well as composite scores for each proficiency-level score.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.1-3, p. 12-15. Using Angoff Yes/No method, cut scores for four domain scores and four composite scores were established.</li> <li>• p. 12. The same four cut scores are used for all grades by domain.</li> <li>• 2.1-4 p. 5-6 “As discussed in 1.3.3, because the test blueprints across grade-level clusters by domain are the same, and the Alternate ELP levels and AMPs for the test tasks across grade-level clusters pose nearly identical linguistic challenges and differ only in the topics presented, common cut scores were set across grade-level clusters by domain.”</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>Adequate evidence provided of standards setting.</p> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.1-3 p. 12 “...it appears more appropriate to use the same cut scores for all grade clusters (from grades 1 to 12) by domain. In this way, it will easier to detect growth in English language proficiency from year to year for this population of English learners.” The Peers disagree with this approach and feel the same philosophy or theoretical understanding of language development be applied across ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS unless a divergence is supported by the research. This approach calls into question the alignment of the Alternate ACCESS to the ELPs and to the academic content standards.</li> <li>• The Peers noted that the number of cut scores established during standard setting did not correspond</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
		<p>to the number of performance levels (despite 6 levels, only 4 cut scores established during standard setting). In 6.4-3, a footnote in the sample score report states that, "... the Listening, Speaking and Reading domains do not include test items targeting proficiency levels P3 and above; therefore, students cannot demonstrate English proficiency at levels P3 and higher..."</p> <p>How was the P3 cut score determined for Writing? And why does WIDA feel that it is reasonable and defensible to exclude the higher level of performance from most domains?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To address the concerns cited here, WIDA should have Cut scores that are developed for every grade/grade band, content domain/language domain, and/or composite for which proficiency-level scores are reported</li> </ul>
<b>Section 6.2 Summary Statement</b>		
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required for ACCESS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:  <b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut scores are developed for every grade/grade band, content domain/language domain, and/or composite for which proficiency-level scores are reported.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

**Critical Element 6.3 –Aligned ELP Achievement Standards**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><b>For ELP achievement standards:</b> The State has ensured that ELP assessment results are expressed in terms that are clearly aligned with the State’s ELP standards, and its ELP performance-level descriptors.</p> <p>If the State has adopted alternate ELP achievement standards for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the alternate ELP achievement standards should be linked to the State’s grade-level/grade-band ELP standards, and should reflect professional judgment of the highest ELP achievement standards possible for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</p>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>Alignment with ELP Standards and PLDs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.1-1 Proficiency Level Scores Standard Setting Project, pp. 26-40</li> <li>• 6.4-2 Interpretive Guide includes performance level descriptors</li> <li>• It is not clear that the citations provided relate to this critical element.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Alternate ELP achievement standards are linked to State’s grade-level/grade-band ELP standards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1-4, p. 5 “The goal of the Standard Setting Study was to interpret performances on the Alternate ACCESS operational field test form in terms of the WIDA ELD Standards, AMPIs, and the WIDA Alternate ELP levels.”</li> <li>• 2.1-4, p. 3 “These language proficiency levels are thoroughly embedded in the WIDA ELD Standards in a two-pronged fashion. First, they appear in the <b>performance definitions</b>. According to the WIDA ELD Standards, the performance definitions provide a global overview of the stages of the language acquisition process. As such, they complement the <b>Alternate Model Performance Indicators</b> (AMPIs) for each language proficiency level (see the next paragraph for further description of the AMPIs). Second, the language proficiency levels of the WIDA ELD Standards are fully embedded in the accompanying</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Peers could not locate evidence to demonstrate that the ELP standards were referenced during the development of the performance level descriptors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer Review narrative, 3.1, p. 2. “There has not yet been an independent alignment study between the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment and the alternate model performance indicators (AMPIs), nor has there been a linking study examining the relationship between the AMPIs and WIDA’s ELP standards.”</li> <li>• Evidence that the achievement standards reflect professional judgment of the highest ELP achievement standards possible for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
	<p>AMPs, which exemplify the Standards. The AMPs describe the expectations for ELLs with significant cognitive disabilities for each of the four <b>Standards</b>, at the four different <b>grade-level clusters</b>, across four <b>language domains</b>, and at each of the <b>language proficiency levels</b>. The sequence of these five AMPs together describes a logical progression and accumulation of skills on the path from the lowest level of ELP to full proficiency for academic success. This progression is called a ‘strand.’” However, based on the statement <b>below</b>, (above?)evidence has yet to be established that there is a link between the AMPs and WIDA’s ELP Standards.</p>	
<p><b>Section 6.3 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No additional evidence is required or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence to demonstrate that the ELP standards were referenced during the development of the performance level descriptors</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the alternate ELP achievement standards [are] linked to the State’s grade-level/grade-band ELP standards, and reflect professional judgment of the highest ELP achievement standards possible for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

**Critical Element 6.4 – Reporting**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State reports its assessment results for all students assessed, and the reporting facilitates timely, appropriate, credible, and defensible interpretations and uses of those results by parents, educators, State officials, policymakers and other stakeholders, and the public.</p> <p>The State reports to the public its assessment results on <i>English language proficiency for all ELs including the number and percentage of ELs attaining ELP</i>.</p> <p>For the <i>ELP assessment</i>, the State provides coherent and timely information about each student’s attainment of the State’s ELP standards to parents that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports the <i>ELs’ English proficiency</i> in terms of the State’s grade level/grade-band ELP standards (including performance-level descriptors);</li> <li>• Are provided in an understandable and uniform format;</li> <li>• Are, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents and guardians can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent or guardian with limited English proficiency, are orally translated for such parent or guardian;</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS</b></p> <p>WIDA provides score reports. State determines timelines.</p> <p><u>Written in a language parents and guardians can understand, or are orally translated</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.4-2 Spring 2018 Interpretive Guide for Score Reports K-12, p. 16. Translations are available in 46 languages; a translated report should accompany the official report in English. List of languages and a Spanish translation is in Appendix B.</li> <li>• A reference could not be located about oral translation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Provided in a format accessible to a parent with disability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reference could not be located.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p><u>Student reports include ELs English proficiency in terms of State’s grade level/grade-band ELP standards including PLDs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.4-3, p. 14. Individual student’s scores for each language domain, and four composites: Oral Language, Literacy, Comprehension, and Overall Score. Reported scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Raw scores in the Listening and Reading domains</li> <li>○ scale scores</li> <li>○ confidence bands</li> <li>○ language proficiency levels</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCESS &amp; Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p>Several aspects of this critical element will need to be addressed by states.</p> <p><b>Alternate ACCESS</b></p> <p>The performance level descriptors do not appear to be included in the student score report as required by this critical element (6.4-3 p. 19).</p>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, as amended, are provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>p. 19 Example of a student report with proficiency levels for each domain, oral language, literacy, comprehension, and an overall composite score.</li> <li>On the example score report, it may be less confusing to report N/A or leave cells blank for Cue C on Listening which was not applicable rather than reporting 0 and 0%.</li> <li>P. 29 Appendix A: Alternate ACCESS Performance Level Descriptors. Figure A-1 Individual Student Report (p.3)</li> </ul> <p><u>Written in a language parents and guardians can understand, or are orally translated</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.4-3 Spring 2018 Interpretive Guide for Score Reports Grades 1-12, p. 15. Translations are available in 46 languages; a translated report should accompany the official report in English.</li> <li>A reference could not be located about oral translation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Provided in a format accessible to a parent with disability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reference could not be located</li> </ul>	

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR WIDA

### Section 6.4 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:

#### ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS

- The State reports to the public its assessment results on *English language proficiency for all ELs including the number and percentage of ELs attaining ELP*. (provided by the State)
- The State reports its assessment results for all students assessed, and the reporting facilitates **timely** interpretations and uses of those results by parents, educators, State officials, policymakers and other stakeholders, and the public. (provided by the State)
- the State provides coherent and timely information about each student's attainment of the State's ELP standards to parents that are, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents and guardians can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent or guardian with limited English proficiency, are orally translated for such parent or guardian (provided by the State)
- the State provides coherent and timely information about each student's attainment of the State's ELP standards to parents that upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, as amended, are provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (provided by the State)

#### Alternate ACCESS

- Inclusion of performance level descriptors on student score reports

## SECTION 7: DOES NOT APPLY TO ELP ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Peer Review of State Assessment Systems

## April State ELP Assessment Peer Review Notes



U. S. Department of Education  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Note: Peer review notes provide the combined recommendations of the individual peers to the U.S. Department of Education (Department), based on the statute and regulations, the Department's peer review guidance, and the peers' professional judgement of the evidence submitted by the State. These assessment peer review notes, however, do not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for assessment peer review. Although the peer notes inform the Secretary's consideration of each State's assessment system, the Department makes the final decision regarding whether the assessment system meets the requirements in the statute and regulations. As a result, these peer notes may not completely align with the final determination made by the Department.

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Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

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Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

**SECTION 1: STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS**

**Critical Element 1.1 – State Adoption of ELP Standards for All English Learners**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><b><i>For English language proficiency (ELP) standards:</i></b>                      The State formally adopted K-12 ELP standards for all ELs in public schools in the State.</p>	<p>SD-001 Board Meeting Agenda Nov p. 1                      SD 018-Amendment ESSA State Plan, p. 69</p> <p>SD peer review submission PDF, pp. 10-11</p>	<p>The ESSA Plan includes a statement that the state adopted the WIDA ELP standards in 2008. The board meeting agenda from November 2008 lists WIDA as an agenda topic, but the reviewers could not find minutes indicating board action to adopt the 2008 standards.</p> <p>The peer review index indicates that the state posts and distributes information about the 2012 ELP standards. The peers could find no evidence that the state adopted the 2012 standards.</p> <p>The peers could not determine which standards (2008 or 2012) were used on the 2017-18 ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS assessments.</p>
<p><b>Section 1.1 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><b>x The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide evidence on which ELP standards were used in the 2017-18 ELP Assessment and evidence of State Board Adoption of those specific standards.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 1.2 – Coherent and Progressive ELP Standards that Correspond to the State’s Academic Content Standards**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><b>For ELP standards:</b> The ELP standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are derived from the four domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing;</li> <li>• address the different proficiency levels of ELs; and align to the State academic content standards (see definition<sup>5</sup>). The ELP standards must contain language proficiency expectations that reflect the language needed for ELs to acquire and demonstrate their achievement of the knowledge and skills identified in the State’s academic content standards appropriate to each grade-level/grade-band in at least reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</li> </ul>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	
<p><b>Section 1.2 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA peer review notes</li> </ul>		

<sup>5</sup> see page 24 of “*A State’s Guide to the U.S. Department of Education’s Assessment Peer Review Process*”, September 24, 2018 available at: [www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html](http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html)

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 1.3 – Required Assessments**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
The State’s assessment system includes an <i>annual general and alternate ELP assessment</i> (aligned with State ELP standards) administered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All ELs in grades K-12.</li> </ul>	SD-018 Amendment ESSA State Plan SD-017 ACCESS and Alt. ACCESS Timeline SD-014 English learners Program Planning SD-012 WIDA SD State Specific Webpage SD-009 Identification and Screening Mini-Manual SD-019 ACCESS 2.0 Window Opening Update SD-023 ACCESS for ELLs Updates SD-015 EL Guide	The evidence indicates that the State provides ELP and alternate ELP assessments for all ELs in grades K-12. Based on the WIDA peer review, it is unclear if how SD assesses K grade students with the WIDA -Alt, since the WIDA peer review indicated there was no WIDA-Alt for Kindergarten.
<b>Section 1.3 Summary Statement</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please clarify what alternate ELP assessment is provided to Kindergarten ELs with significant cognitive disabilities.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 1.4 – Policies for Including All Students in Assessments**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State has policies that require the inclusion <i>of all public elementary and secondary ELs in the State’s ELP assessment</i>, including ELs with disabilities.</li> </ul>	SD-008 Team Worksheet for Monitoring SD-025 ACCESS-Accessibility-Accommodation Supplement SD- 043 Alt.-Guidelines SD- 041 MedExm SD-039 ARSD 24_05_14_14 SD-040 ARSD 24_55_07_11 SD-049 Test-Administrator-Manual SD-054 ACCESSTraining_District-School Coordinator Manual SD-074 ACCESS-Online-Accommodations-Checklist SD-075 ACCESS-Paper-Accommodations-Checklist SD-076 Alt.-ACCESS-Accommodations-Checklist SD- 077 Alt.-ACCESS-Participation-Criteria-Diagram SD 038 SDAccManL	Evidence establishes that the State has policies that require the inclusion of all public elementary and secondary ELs in the State’s ELP assessment, including ELs with disabilities. The only question is related to the issue raised in CE 1.3 regarding the participation of kindergarten ELs with significant cognitive disabilities in the alternate ELP assessment (AELPA).
<p><b>Section 1.4 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><u>  </u> x <u>  </u> See critical element 1.3.</p>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 1.5 – Meaningful Consultation in the Development of Challenging State Standards and Assessments**

(Note: this is a new requirement under ESSA, so it does not apply to standards and assessments adopted prior to the passage of ESSA (December 2015)).

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>If the State has developed or amended challenging <i>ELP</i> standards and assessments, the State has conducted meaningful and timely consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State leaders, including the Governor, members of the State legislature and State board of education (if the State has a State board of education).</li> <li>• Local educational agencies (including those located in rural areas).</li> <li>• Representatives of Indian tribes located in the State.</li> <li>• Teachers, principals, other school leaders, charter school leaders (if the State has charter schools), specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, administrators, other staff, and parents.</li> </ul>	<p>This critical element does not apply, as the State adopted ELP standards prior to the passage of ESSA in December 2015.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Section 1.5 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p>This critical element does not apply, as the State adopted ELP standards prior to the passage of ESSA in December 2015.</p>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

**SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

**Critical Element 2.1 – Test Design and Development**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State’s test design and test development process is well-suited for the content, is technically sound, aligns the assessments to <i>the depth and breadth of the State’s ELP standards</i>, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement(s) of the purposes of the assessments and the intended interpretations and uses of results;</li> <li>• Test blueprints that describe the structure of each assessment in sufficient detail to support the development of assessments that are technically sound, measure the depth and breadth of <i>the State’s ELP standards</i>, and support the intended interpretations and uses of the results.</li> <li>• Processes to ensure that the ELP assessment is tailored to the knowledge and skills included in <i>the State’s ELP standards</i> and reflects appropriate inclusion of the range of complexity found in the standards.</li> <li>• If the State administers computer-adaptive assessments, the item pool and item selection procedures adequately support the test design and intended uses and interpretations of results.</li> <li>• If the State administers a computer-adaptive assessment, it makes proficiency determinations with respect to the grade in which the</li> </ul>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

student is enrolled and uses that determination for all reporting. If the State administers a content assessment that includes portfolios, such assessment may be partially administered through a portfolio but may not be <i>entirely</i> administered through a portfolio.		
<b>Section 2.1 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

**Critical Element 2.2 – Item Development**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
The State uses reasonable and technically sound procedures to develop and select items to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess student English language proficiency based on the <i>State’s ELP standards</i> in terms of content and language processes.</li> </ul>	South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area	
<b>Section 2.2 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

**Critical Element 2.3 – Test Administration**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State implements policies and procedures for standardized test administration; specifically, the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has established and communicates to educators clear, thorough and consistent standardized procedures for the administration of its assessments, including administration with accommodations;</li> <li>• Has established procedures to ensure that general and special education teachers, paraprofessionals, teachers of ELs, specialized instructional support personnel, and other appropriate staff receive necessary training to administer assessments and know how to administer assessments, including, as necessary, alternate assessments, and know how to make use of appropriate accommodations during assessments for all students with disabilities;</li> <li>• If the State administers technology-based assessments, the State has defined technology and other related requirements, included technology-based test administration in its standardized procedures for test administration, and established contingency plans to address possible technology challenges during test administration.</li> </ul>	<p>SD- 029 ACCES for ELLs Roadshow 2017-18 PowerPoint SD- 032 New Coordinator Workshop 8.30.17</p> <p>SD-031 17-18 Training Requirements SD-027 November 2017 Newsletter SD-028 December 2017 Newsletter</p> <p>SD-045 2Technology Resources in WIDA Website SD-054 ACCESSTraining_District-School-Test-Coordinator-Manual SD-049 Test-Administrator-Manual</p>	<p>The state appears to rely on consortium-level training for test administrators, the peer reviewers defer to consortium peer notes regarding the extent to which training content meets this critical element for both ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS.</p> <p>The department establishes (SD-031) and communicates expectations for test administrator training via monthly newsletters (SD-027, SD-028). It is unclear whether training is required or recommended. Newsletters indicate training is required for the types of tests each test administrator will give and recommended for the other types. The road show PPT implies annual <i>requirement</i>, while the training requirements document indicates the department <i>recommends</i> annual training. Peers could not locate information on how the state confirms that eligible test administrators have completed training.</p> <p>Although the State’s peer review response index (PDF p. 18) describes communication between WIDA, DRC, and the state; and the use of the DRC help desk for local issues; and the district coordinator’s manual (SD-054, pp. 63-65) provides suggestions for troubleshooting routine technology challenges, there was no evidence if the state had a contingency plan for specials cases or situations where the testing may be cancelled or interrupted for any reason.</p> <p>Peers could not find evidence of documentation that verifies tracking of attendance and completion for all test administrators, other staff or volunteers. Furthermore, peers could not ascertain how new administrators to testing buildings know and are trained on these testing procedures.</p>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

### Section 2.3 Summary Statement

No additional evidence is required or

**The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:**

- Provide evidence that clarifies their expectation for annual test administrators training (e.g. required or recommended) and the State confirms completion of training as required.
- Provide evidence of State has established contingency plans to address possible technology challenges during test administration.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 2.4 – Monitoring Test Administration**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State adequately monitors the administration of its State assessments to ensure that standardized test administration procedures are implemented with fidelity across districts and schools. Monitoring of test administration should be demonstrated for all assessments in the State system: the general ELP assessments and the AELPA.</p>	<p>SD- 035 SD online checklist                      SD- 036 SD paper checklist                      SD-029 ACCES for ELLs Roadshow 2017-18 PowerPoint                      SD-031 17-18 Training Requirements                      SD-037 ACCESS Updates window closing email                      SD-048 ACCESS Assessment Visit Protocol                      SD-050 Monitoring of Training                      SD-051 Office of Assessment Weekly Update</p>	<p>The State’s evidence provided procedural and ancillary information regarding monitoring of ELP test administration, but did not demonstrate that monitoring for all ELP assessments in the State system had occurred.</p>
<p><b>Section 2.4 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><u>  </u>x_ The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of the monitoring of test administration should be demonstrated for all assessments in the State system: the general ELP assessments and the AELPA.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 2.5 – Test Security**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>The State has implemented and documented an appropriate set of policies and procedures to prevent test irregularities and ensure the integrity of test results through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention of any assessment irregularities, including maintaining the security of test materials (both during test development and at time of test administration), proper test preparation guidelines and administration procedures, incident-reporting procedures, consequences for confirmed violations of test security, and requirements for annual training at the district and school levels for all individuals involved in test administration;</li> <li>Detection of test irregularities;</li> <li>Remediation following any test security incidents involving any of the State’s assessments;</li> <li>Investigation of alleged or factual test irregularities.</li> <li>Application of test security procedures to the general ELP assessments and the AELPA.</li> </ul>	<p>SD- 029 ACCESS for ELLs Roadshow 17-18 PowerPoint</p> <p>SD-024 Assessment Page Screenshot- ACCESS Security Log</p> <p>SD-052 Test Irregularity ACCESS log</p> <p>SD- 035 SD online checklist SD- 036 SD paper checklist</p>	<p><b>Prevention</b> The State relies on the following consortium level materials: (1) WIDA non-disclosure agreement for local staff to indicate their agreement with terms protecting security and confidentiality of the assessments and associated training; (2) test administrator manual language regarding security; (3) assessment coordinator manual language regarding security; (4) WIDA test security videos; (5) the WIDA test policies handbook; and (6) WIDA checklists for what to do before, during and after testing, including checkpoints for meeting security requirements. Peers defer to consortium peer notes on the contents of these resources.</p> <p>Test security is covered in assessment coordinator training (SD-029, slides 20-23). The state provides a security log (SD-024), Peers are unclear if the local assessment coordinators are required to track who has signed the paper version of the WIDA Non-Disclosure Agreement</p> <p><b>Detection, remediation, and investigation</b> The state keeps a log (SD-052) when cases of potential irregularities are reported. District staff are reminded about the expectation to report compromises in test security via email (SD-029, slide 22). It was unclear whether the same actions were considered potential irregularities for ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS. Peers could find no evidence on how test administrators are instructed to report potential irregularities. Peers could find no information on state-specific policies or procedures for other means of detecting irregularities, investigating potential irregularities once reported, or remediation.</p>
<b>Section 2.5 Summary Statement</b>		
<p><u>  </u><b>x</b> <b>The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of the state’s expectation for monitoring completion of paper version of the WIDA non-disclosure agreement.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

## STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

- Evidence that confirmed violations are used to prevent future test irregularities.
- Evidence on the State's policies and procedures for identifying and investigating irregularities, and any methods for detecting any irregularities beyond reports from the field.(e.g. forensic methods)
- Evidence of requirements for annual training at the district and school level for all individuals involved in test administration.
- Evidence that the States test security procedures apply to both the ACCESS and Alt-ACCESS assessments.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 2.6 – Systems for Protecting Data Integrity and Privacy**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>The State has policies and procedures in place to protect the integrity and confidentiality of its test materials, test-related data, and personally identifiable information, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect the integrity of its test-related data in test administration, scoring, storage and use of results;</li> <li>• To secure student-level assessment data and protect student privacy and confidentiality, including guidelines for districts and schools;</li> <li>• To protect personally identifiable information about any individual student in reporting, including defining the minimum number of students necessary to allow reporting of scores for all students and student groups.</li> </ul>	<p>SD-029 ACCESS for ELLs Roadshow 17-18 PowerPoint            SD-026 South Dakota State Profile 2017-2018            SD 018-Amendment ESSA State Plan</p>	<p>Data integrity            The state relies on consortium-level evidence including the WIDA NDA (SD-057), checklists (SD-035, 036) and manuals (SD-049, SD-054) for security guidance. That guidance mostly addresses security of test materials and protecting personal login credentials for the secure portal. It is unclear what consortium-level test administrator training covers with regard to protecting integrity of data and materials. See section 2.5 for open question on whether there are procedures for local monitoring of signed paper versions of the NDA.</p> <p>. Peers could not find evidence of state-specific policies, procedures, or guidelines for districts and schools regarding protection of student privacy or student-level assessment data.</p>
<p><b>Section 2.6 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><u>  </u><b>x</b> <b>The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <p>The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of the state’s expectation for monitoring completion of paper version of the WIDA non-disclosure agreement.</li> <li>• Provide evidence of the Status’s policies, procedure and guidelines to secure student-level assessment data and protect student privacy and confidentiality,</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

SECTION 3: TECHNICAL QUALITY – VALIDITY

Critical Element 3.1 – Overall Validity, Including Validity Based on Content

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has documented adequate overall validity evidence for its assessments consistent with nationally recognized professional and technical testing standards. The State’s validity evidence includes evidence that:</p> <p><i>The State’s ELP assessments</i> measure the knowledge and skills specified in the State’s ELP standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of adequate alignment between the State’s ELP assessment and the ELP standards the assessment is designed to measure in terms of language knowledge and skills, the depth and breadth of the State’s ELP standards, across all proficiency levels, domains, and modalities identified therein;</li> <li>• Documentation of alignment (as defined) between the State’s ELP standards and the language demands implied by, or explicitly stated in, the State’s academic content standards;</li> <li>• If the State administers an AELPA aligned with alternate ELP achievement standards, the assessment shows adequate linkage to the State’s ELP standards in terms of content match (i.e., no unrelated content) and that the breadth of content and linguistic complexity</li> </ul>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

determined in test design is appropriate for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.		
<b>Section 3.1 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

**Critical Element 3.2 – Validity Based on Linguistic Processes**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
The State has documented adequate validity evidence that its assessments tap <i>the intended language processes</i> appropriate for each grade level/grade-band as represented in the State’s ELP standards.	South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area	
<b>Section 3.2 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 3.3 – Validity Based on Internal Structure**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>The State has documented adequate validity evidence that the scoring and reporting structures of its assessments are consistent with the sub-domain structures of the State’s <i>ELP standards</i> on which the intended interpretations and uses of results are based.</p>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	
<p><b>Section 3.3 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 3.4 – Validity Based on Relations to Other Variables**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
The State has documented adequate validity evidence that the State’s assessment scores are related as expected with other variables.	South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area	.
<b>Section 3.4 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL QUALITY – OTHER

**Critical Element 4.1 – Reliability**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has documented adequate reliability evidence for its assessments for the following measures of reliability for the State’s student population overall and each student group consistent with nationally recognized professional and technical testing standards. If the State’s assessments are implemented in multiple States, measures of reliability for the assessment overall and each student group consistent with nationally recognized professional and technical testing standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test reliability of the State’s assessments estimated for its student population (<i>for ELP assessments, including any domain or component sub-tests, as applicable</i>);</li> <li>• Overall and conditional standard error of measurement of the State’s assessments, including any domain or component sub-tests, as applicable;</li> <li>• Consistency and accuracy of estimates in categorical classification decisions for the cut scores, achievement levels or proficiency levels based on the assessment results;</li> <li>• For computer-adaptive tests, evidence that the assessments produce test forms with adequately</li> </ul>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	<p>.</p>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
precise estimates of <i>an EL’s English proficiency</i> .		
<b>Section 4.1 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

**Critical Element 4.2 – Fairness and Accessibility**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><i>For all State ELP assessments</i>, assessments should be developed, to the extent practicable, using the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) (see definition<sup>6</sup>).</p> <p><i>For ELP assessments</i>, the State has taken reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that its assessments are accessible to all EL students and fair across student groups, including ELs with disabilities, in their design, development, and analysis.</p>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	
<b>Section 4.2 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

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<sup>6</sup> see page 28 of “*A State’s Guide to the U.S. Department of Education’s Assessment Peer Review Process*”, September 24, 2018 available at: [www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html](http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/saa.html)

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 4.3 – Full Performance Continuum**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>The State has ensured that each assessment provides an adequately precise estimate of student performance across the full performance continuum for <i><b>ELP assessments</b></i>, including performance for EL students with high and low levels of English language proficiency and with different proficiency profiles across the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.</p>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	<p>.</p>
<p><b>Section 4.3 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 4.4 – Scoring**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has established and documented standardized scoring procedures and protocols for its assessments (and <i>for ELP assessments, any applicable domain or component sub-tests</i>) that are designed to produce reliable and meaningful results, facilitate valid score interpretations, and report assessment results in terms of the State’s <i>ELP standards</i>.</p> <p><i>For ELP assessments</i>, if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s), the State must provide a description of how it will ensure that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, and a description of how this will occur.<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	<p>The consortium peers noted that the State needed to provide evidence that if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s), the State must provide a description of how it will ensure that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, and a description of how this will occur</p>
<p><b>Section 4.4 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><u>  X  </u> <b>The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evidence that if an English learner has a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains/components (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected domain(s)/component(s), the State must provide a description of how it will ensure that the student is assessed in the remaining domain(s)/component(s) in which it is possible to assess the student, and a description of how this will occur for both the ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS assessments.</p>		

<sup>7</sup> See full reference in regulation, 34 CFR § 200.6(h)(4)(ii) (online at [https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=07e168e9e7a6c5931b4549cc15547ee9&mc=true&node=se34.1.200\\_16&rgn=div8](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=07e168e9e7a6c5931b4549cc15547ee9&mc=true&node=se34.1.200_16&rgn=div8) )

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 4.5 – Multiple Assessment Forms**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
If the State administers multiple forms of <i>ELP assessments</i> within or across grade-spans, ELP levels, or school years, the State ensures that all forms adequately represent the State’s <i>ELP standards</i> and yield consistent score interpretations such that the forms are comparable within and across settings.	South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area	
<b>Section 4.4 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

**Critical Element 4.6 – Multiple Versions of an Assessment**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
If the State administers any of its assessments in multiple versions within a subject area (e.g., online versus paper-based delivery), grade level, or school year, the State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Followed a design and development process to support comparable interpretations of results for students tested across the versions of the assessments;</li> <li>• Documented adequate evidence of comparability of the meaning and interpretations of the assessment results.</li> </ul>	South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area	
<b>Section 4.6 Summary Statement</b>		
See WIDA Peer Review Notes		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 4.7 – Technical Analysis and Ongoing Maintenance**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<p>The State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a system for monitoring, maintaining, and improving, as needed, the quality of its assessment system, including clear and technically sound criteria for the analyses of all of the assessments in its assessment system (i.e., general assessments and alternate assessments), and</li> <li>Evidence of adequate technical quality is made public, including on the State’s website.</li> </ul>	<p>South Dakota statement in the index is that the state adhered to the procedures outlined in the WIDA submissions, allow the consortia submission to stand as evidence in this area</p>	<p>The consortium peers noted that the State needed to provide evidence of adequate technical quality is made public, including on the State’s website is not provided. (provided by States)</p>
<p><b>Section 4.7 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><b>x The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of adequate technical quality is made public, including on the State’s website for both the ACCESS 2.0 and Alt.-ACCESS assessments...</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

SECTION 5: INCLUSION OF ALL STUDENTS

**Critical Element 5.1 – Procedures for Including Students with Disabilities**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State has in place procedures to ensure the inclusion of all public elementary and secondary school students<sup>8</sup> with disabilities in the State’s assessment system. Decisions about how to assess students with disabilities must be made by a student’s IEP Team under IDEA, the placement team under Section 504, or the individual or team designated by a district to make that decision under Title II of the ADA, as applicable, based on each student’s individual abilities and needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>For ELP assessments</b>, policies that require the inclusion of an EL with a disability that precludes assessment of the student in one or more of the required domains (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) such that there are no appropriate accommodations for the affected component (the State must assess the student’s English language proficiency based on the remaining components in which it is possible to assess the student).</li> </ul>	<p>SD-047 ARSD_24_05_14_14_01</p> <p>SD-015 EL Guide</p> <p>SD-038 SDAccManL</p> <p>SD-077 Alt.-ACCESS-Participation-Criteria-Diagram</p> <p>SD-014 English Learners Program Planning Checklist</p> <p>SD-025 ACCESS-Accessibility-Accommodation Supplement</p> <p>SD-074 ACCESS-Online-Accommodations-Checklist SD-075 ACCESS-Paper-Accommodations-Checklist SD-076 Alt.-ACCESS-Accommodations-Checklist</p> <p>SD- 029 ACCES for ELLs Roadshow 2017-18 PowerPoint</p>	<p>The state has legislation requiring inclusion of students with disabilities in all statewide assessments required by ESEA (SD-047). The state’s EL services guide reiterates the requirement that all ELs participate in ELP assessments (SD-015, p. 10). However, that expectation cannot currently be met because the state uses WIDA assessments, which do not include a kindergarten option for Alt-ACCESS.</p> <p>WIDA materials provide some guidance on how to proceed when a student’s disability may preclude assessment in one or more domains. However, that guidance also points to state policy (e.g., SD-025, pp. 5-6) and treats Alt-ACCESS as a separate sub-section from other sub-sections on specific types of disabilities (which presumably refer to ACCESS 2.0). The state’s accommodations manual did not address these gaps left by SD-025 (e.g., SD-038, braille description on p. 52). Also, Peers could not find information in the district assessment coordinator webinar regarding policies for including students whose disabilities may preclude assessment in one or more domains.</p> <p>The state’s accommodations manual (SD-038) provides general guidance on procedures for selecting, using, and evaluating accommodations for students with disabilities. The guidance references ACCESS (pp. 35-64). It is unclear whether the options listed in the state’s 2015 manual correspond with the current operational ACCESS 2.0 assessment (including online and paper forms) or Alt-ACCESS.</p>

<sup>8</sup> For ELP peer review, this refers to ELs with disabilities.

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
		The state appears to rely on WIDA materials (SD-025, 074, 075, 076) for specific guidance on tools and accommodations. District assessment coordinator training covers these topics (SD-029). Peers could not find evidence of the contents of test administrator training on the selection of appropriate accommodations.
<b>Section 5.1 Summary Statement</b>		
<p><b>x The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State provides guidance on requiring the participation of students with disabilities in state assessments consistent with state legislation.</li> <li>• Evidence that the state provides an opportunity for Kindergarten EL students to participate in an Alt-ELP Assessment.</li> <li>• Evidence that the accommodations manual aligns with WIDA consortium guidance on accommodations for both ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS and addresses the gaps in the WIDA guidance that directs readers to state policies. Particularly in areas where a student’s disability may require consideration on exempting one or more language domains.</li> <li>• Evidence that test administrators receive training on selection and administration for appropriate accommodations.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 5.2 – DOES NOT APPLY to ELP Assessment Peer Review**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: This critical element does not apply to ELP assessments, as the requirements only apply to the inclusion of ELs in <b>academic assessments</b>.</li> </ul>		
<b>Section 5.2 Summary Statement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 5.3 – Accommodations**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State makes available appropriate accommodations and ensures that its assessments are accessible to students with disabilities and ELs, including ELs with disabilities. Specifically, the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures that appropriate accommodations are available for ELs;</li> <li>• Has determined that the accommodations it provides (1) are appropriate and effective for meeting the individual student’s need(s) to participate in the assessments, (2) do not alter the construct being assessed, and (3) allow meaningful interpretations of results and comparison of scores for students who need and receive accommodations and students who do not need and do not receive accommodations;</li> <li>• Has a process to individually review and allow exceptional requests for a small number of students who require accommodations beyond those routinely allowed.</li> <li>• Ensures that accommodations for all required assessments do not deny students with disabilities or ELs the opportunity to participate in the assessment and any benefits from participation in the assessment.</li> </ul>	<p>SD-025 ACCESS-Accessibility-Accommodation Supplement                      SD-074 ACCESS-Online-Accommodations-Checklist                      SD-075 ACCESS-Paper-Accommodations-Checklist                      SD-076 Alt.-ACCESS-Accommodations-Checklist</p> <p>SD-038 SDAccManL</p> <p>SD-015 EL Guide                      SD- 029 ACCES for ELLs Roadshow 2017-18                      PowerPoint</p>	<p>The state appears to rely on WIDA materials (SD-025, 074, 075, 076) for specific guidance on tools and accommodations for ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS. The state’s accommodations manual (SD-038) provides general guidance on procedures for selecting, using, and evaluating accommodations for students with disabilities. The guidance references ACCESS (pp. 35-64). It is unclear whether the options listed in the state’s 2015 manual correspond with the current operational ACCESS 2.0 assessment (including online and paper forms) or Alt-ACCESS.</p> <p>The state’s EL Guide (SD-015) provides a link (p. 13) to WIDA accommodations information. District assessment coordinator training also covers accommodations (SD-029). Peers could not find evidence of the contents of test administrator training on the selection of appropriate accommodations.</p> <p>The consortium peer panel indicated evidence is needed on the effectiveness of accommodations and meaningful interpretation of results when assessments are administered with accommodations. Peers did not find any evidence on either topic provided by the state.</p> <p>Peers could not find information regarding procedures for reviewing exceptional requests or steps taken to ensure that accommodations do not deny students opportunities to participate or receive benefits from the assessments</p>

**Section 5.3 Summary Statement**

**x The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:**

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the State accommodations manual aligns with WIDA consortium guidance on accommodations for both ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS</li> <li>• Evidence that the State accommodations manual addresses the gaps in the WIDA guidance that directs readers to state policies, particularly in areas where a student’s disability may require consideration on exempting one or more language domains for both ACCESS 2.0 and Alt-ACCESS.</li> <li>• Evidence that test administrators receive training on selection and administration for appropriate accommodations.</li> <li>• Evidence on the effectiveness of accommodations and meaningful interpretation of the results.</li> <li>• Evidence that ensures that accommodations for all required assessments do not deny students with disabilities or ELs the opportunity to participate in the assessment and any benefits from participation in the assessment.</li> </ul>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

**Critical Element 5.4 – Monitoring Test Administration for Special Populations**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State monitors test administration in its districts and schools to ensure that appropriate assessments, with or without accommodations, are selected for all students with disabilities and ELs so that they are appropriately included in assessments and receive accommodations that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the State’s policies for accommodations;</li> <li>• Appropriate for addressing a student’s disability or language needs for each assessment administered;</li> <li>• Consistent with accommodations provided to the students during instruction and/or practice;</li> <li>• Consistent with the assessment accommodations identified by a student’s IEP Team under IDEA, placement team convened under Section 504; or for students covered by Title II of the ADA, the individual or team designated by a district to make these decisions; or another process for an EL;</li> <li>• Administered with fidelity to test administration procedures;</li> <li>• Monitored for administrations of all required ELP assessments, and AELPA.</li> </ul>	<p>SD index pp. 33-34</p> <p>SD-054 ACCESSTraining_District-School-Test-Coordinator-Manual</p>	<p><i>The state response indicated additional evidence was provided by the consortium but the consortium peer notes indicated the states were solely responsible for this CE.</i></p> <p>The state response on actual monitoring covered two points: (1) it is the local Assessment Coordinator’s responsibility, and (2) there is a way for SEA staff to review which accommodations are selected for WIDA via the WIDA AIMS system. #1 seems to be a state-specific expectation. Peers could not find evidence of that expectation in the assessment coordinators’ manual (SD-054 p. 11-12, 15) or any documents on how the state ensures the expectation is met.</p>
<p><b>Section 5.4 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><b>x The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide evidence on how the assessment coordinator is provided guidance on monitoring proper accommodations are available and utilized</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Evidence on how the SEA is monitoring the assessment coordinator to ensure the coordinator is performing all expected tasks related to accommodations.</li> <li>• Provide evidence on how the SEA monitors for:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appropriate participation decisions</li> <li>○ Appropriate accommodation decisions, consistent with those used during instruction and designated on the IEP or 504 plan (ACCESS 2.0 or Alt-ACCESS)</li> <li>○ Monitoring for fidelity to test administration procedures (ACCESS 2.0 or Alt-ACCESS)</li> <li>○ How the state’s general plans for assessment monitoring include the ELP and AELP assessments as part of the statewide system</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

**SECTION 6: ELP ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS AND REPORTING**

**Critical Element 6.1 – State Adoption of ELP Achievement Standards for All Students**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><b>For ELP standards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State adopted ELP achievement standards that address the different proficiency levels of ELs;</li> <li>If the State has developed alternate ELP achievement standards, it has adopted them only for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the regular ELP assessment even with appropriate accommodations.</li> </ul>	<p>SD 018-Amendment ESSA State Plan, p. 69</p>	<p>The reviewers found evidence of a proficient achievement standards but did not find evidence of adoption of this standard for either ACCESS 2.0 or Alt. ACCESS.</p>
<p><b>Section 6.1 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<p><b>x_ The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence that the State adopted ELP achievement standards that address the different proficiency levels of Provide evidence that the State adopted alternate ELP achievement standards for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the regular ELP assessment even with appropriate accommodations.</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 6.2 – ELP Achievement Standards Setting**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State used a technically sound method and process that involved panelists with appropriate experience and expertise for setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>ELP achievement standards and, as applicable, alternate ELP achievement standards</i></b>, such that:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cut scores are developed for every grade/grade band, content domain/language domain, and/or composite for which proficiency-level scores are reported.</li> </ul> </li> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Section 6.2 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

**Critical Element 6.3 –Aligned ELP Achievement Standards**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p><b><i>For ELP achievement standards:</i></b>                      The State has ensured that ELP assessment results are expressed in terms that are clearly aligned with the State’s ELP standards, and its ELP performance-level descriptors.</p> <p>If the State has adopted alternate ELP achievement standards for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the alternate ELP achievement standards should be linked to the State’s grade-level/grade-band ELP standards, and should reflect professional judgment of the highest ELP achievement standards possible for ELs who are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</p>		
<p><b>Section 6.3 Summary Statement</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See WIDA Peer Review Notes</li> </ul>		

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.

STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota

**Critical Element 6.4 – Reporting**

Critical Element	Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)	Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence
<p>The State reports its assessment results for all students assessed, and the reporting facilitates timely, appropriate, credible, and defensible interpretations and uses of those results by parents, educators, State officials, policymakers and other stakeholders, and the public.</p> <p>The State reports to the public its assessment results on <i>English language proficiency for all ELs including the number and percentage of ELs attaining ELP</i>.</p> <p>For the <i>ELP assessment</i>, the State provides coherent and timely information about each student’s attainment of the State’s ELP standards to parents that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports the <i>ELs’ English proficiency</i> in terms of the State’s grade level/grade-band ELP standards (including performance-level descriptors);</li> <li>• Are provided in an understandable and uniform format;</li> <li>• Are, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents and guardians can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent or guardian with limited English proficiency, are orally translated for such parent or guardian;</li> </ul>	<p>SD-017 ACCESS and Alt. ACCESS Timeline SD-029- ACCESS for ELLs Assessment Roadshow, slides 123-128</p> <p>SD-071 ACCESS 2.0 Scores Available SD-009 Identification and Screening Mini-Manual p. 9</p> <p>SD-059 SD Report Card</p> <p>SD 068- LettersSR SD 069- transSIR</p> <p>SD-073 Finding-Your-Students-SuperPowers-Flyer SD-070 Agenda Score Reports SD-072 Interpreting Score Reports for Instruction</p>	<p>The state report card (SD-059) shows the percent of students “on track” for English language proficiency. It is unclear whether this includes results from both ACCESS 2.0 and Alt ACCESS. The state’s index describes this as “number and percentage of ELs attaining EL proficiency” but Peers couldn’t find those numbers.</p> <p>SD-071 references availability of district level results but Peers could not locate an example to determine whether those results report number and percentage of ELs attaining proficiency.</p> <p>The department promotes availability of WIDA consortium-level resources for use with parents, including instructions for how to access translated parent letters (SD-068) and translated individual score reports (SD-069). These resources showed examples for ACCESS 2.0. Peers could not tell from the screen shots whether similar letters and reports were available for Alt ACCESS.</p> <p>The department promotes awareness of WIDA-produced resources (e.g., SD-073) to support instructional use of assessment results. Evidence was also provided on workshops to support use of score reports (SD-070 and SD-072). Both of these referenced ACCESS 2.0. Peers could not find parallel information about Alt-ACCESS.</p> <p>Peers could not locate any information about the availability of parent materials in accessible formats for parents with disabilities.</p>

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.



**STATE ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW NOTES FOR South Dakota**

<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Evidence (Record document and page # for future reference)</b>	<b>Comments/Notes/Questions/Suggestions Regarding State Documentation or Evidence</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, as amended, are provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.</li> </ul>		
<b>Section 6.4 Summary Statement</b>		
<p><b><u>X</u> The following additional evidence is needed/provide brief rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence that the State reports to the public its assessment results on English language proficiency for all ELs including the number and percentage of ELs attaining ELP</li> <li>Provide examples of information for parents specifically for Alt-ACCESS-, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents and guardians can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent or guardian with limited English proficiency, are orally translated for such parent or guardian;</li> <li>Provide evidence on how the State addresses a request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, as amended, are provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.</li> <li>Provide evidence for Alt-Access on how the State reports its assessment results for all students assessed, and the reporting facilitates timely, appropriate, credible, and defensible interpretations and uses of those results by educators.</li> </ul>		

**SECTION 7: DOES NOT APPLY TO ELP ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW**

Consistent with the note on page 1, the evidence requested by the peer reviewers does not necessarily reflect the final set of additional evidence, if any, that a State may need to submit to demonstrate that its assessment system meets all of the critical elements for the assessment peer review. As a result, a State should refer to the letter to the State, including the list of additional evidence needed, if any, from the Department.