COLORADO
Department of Education

2026 WIDA ACCESS Updates

Data trends and updates to 2026 performance frameworks

May 19, 2026



Agenda

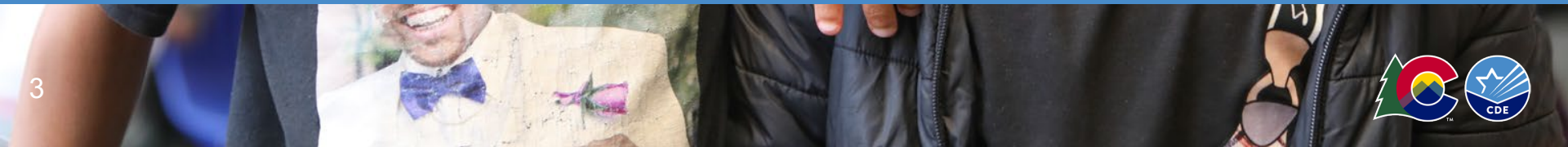
- **Overview of 2026 WIDA ACCESS Changes**
- **Updates for 2026 Performance Frameworks**
- **Q&A**
- **Next Steps**

Meeting Logistics

- This meeting will be recorded.
- Please add your Name, Role, and Affiliation to the chat.
- Everyone please mute your sound.



Overview of 2026 WIDA ACCESS



2026 Changes to WIDA ACCESS

- Revisions to 2026 assessments incorporate WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards Framework, 2020 Edition
    - 1-12 same test format/experience for students and test administrators
    - Kindergarten new test format/experience for test administrators
- Vertical scales now go Kindergarten - 12
- WIDA mapped old performance levels onto temporary scale scores allowing performance levels to be comparable to previous years
- Composite score calculations did not change for domains



ACCESS Testers by the Numbers

WIDA ACCESS	
2025-2026	**2024-2025**
94,312 students took at least 1 domain	100,870 students took at least 1 domain
4% of testers* had a first year in US Date of less than 1 year	11% of testers* had a first year in US Date of less than 1 year

* students in grades 1-12

Early Trends in Results

- Across the board, 2026 mean scale scores are higher than 2024 or 2025
  - Scores for grades 1-5 are higher than 2024-2025
    - More noticeable increase in grades 8-12 compared to 2024-2025
      - scores at the upper end of the scale (350+) are likely to have increased by more points
  - Kindergarten scores are lower than 2024-2025
- Cut scores were adjusted to account for the new scale score distribution to keep the performance levels comparable to 2024-2025
  - Updated transition year cut score tables will be available on June 1
  - District Assessment Coordinators may **complete this form** to have the resource emailed to them (shared in DAC email on May 14)
- CDE Assessment will post the ACCESS State, District, and School Summary report in June

Upcoming Standard Setting

- WIDA will host standard setting July 28-31, 2026
    - 5 participants from Colorado
- Panelists will set new performance level cut scores for the assessment based on 2026 scale scores
- New performance levels will be determined
    - Post standard setting Proficiency Level work will be used for redesignation beginning in 2027-2028

Redesignation for School Year 2026-2027

- Follow the redesignation procedures set by CDE's Office of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education.
    - Redesignation standards have not changed
    - The process still requires a body of evidence be collected
- You may see a few more students in grades 3-5 meeting the redesignation criteria
- CLDE will be recruiting for the redesignation committee in the fall

Suggested Timeline for Redesignation Procedures

Month	Procedures and Processes
January-February	ACCESS administration
March-June	District begins collecting a body of evidence
May	District receives ACCESS scores to share with schools & families
May-July	District determines redesignation eligibility
August	District adjusts student's schedule to reflect redesignation
October	District updates coding during ***Student October Count***



Updates for Performance Frameworks

Updates to ELP Growth and ELP On Track Growth for 2026 Frameworks

- 2026 frameworks will include ELP Growth
- Colorado's ELP Growth measure is normative and uses student growth percentiles and median growth percentiles (for schools/districts) for calculations
    - Correlations between median growth percentiles with 2026 data and previous years are adequate to continue calculating ELP Growth
- Colorado uses different Growth calculations than the WIDA consortium
    - For ELP Growth, 2026 data is not a baseline year for Colorado
- ELP Growth will be worth 4 points in 2026 frameworks
- CDE will still release individual student reports (ISRs) for ELP Growth and summary Growth files in mid-June.

Updates to ELP Growth and ELP On Track Growth for 2026 Frameworks

- 2026 frameworks will not include ELP On Track Growth
  - ELP On Track Growth will be paused for 2026
  - Columns for ELP On Track Growth in summary Growth files will be blank
- 2026-2027 will set a new baseline for ELP On Track Growth
- ELP On Track Growth was 2 points - these will now move to ELP Growth

Impact of excluding OTG from frameworks

- The two points usually assigned to ELP On Track Growth will instead be counted toward ELP Growth in frameworks
  - 4 points for ELP Growth
  - No points for ELP On Track Growth
- Using 2025 data, 98% of schools and districts would get the same rating with four points for ELP Growth and no points for ELP On Track Growth

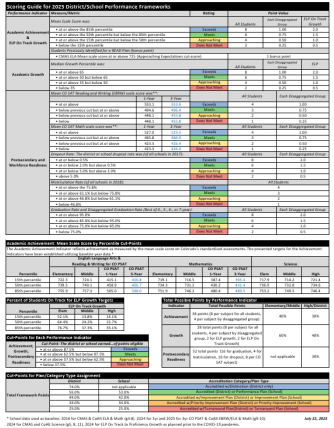
Changes to 2025 school/district performance ratings using 4 points for ELP Growth and no points for ELP On Track Growth	Districts (n=159*)		Schools (n=1,604*)	
	N	%	N	%
Same rating	158	99.4%	1565	97.6%
Rating **increased** one level	1	0.6%	30	1.9%
Rating **decreased** one level	0	0.0%	9	0.6%

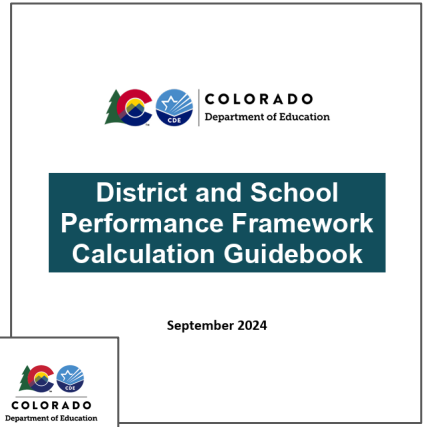
* excludes AECs, Insufficient State Data, new and closed districts/schools.

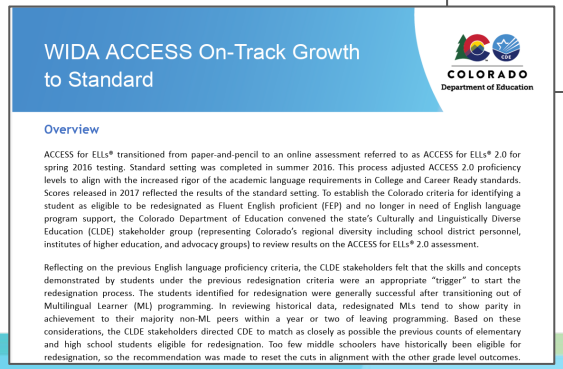
Forthcoming resources

CDE will release updated resources reflecting changes to ELP Growth and OTG growth for 2026

- Updated 2026 Scoring Guide
- Updated District and School Performance Framework Calculation Guidebook
- Updated WIDA ACCESS On-Track Growth to Standard Fact Sheet
- 2026 WIDA ACCESS Trends one-pager once data is available in June









Q&A



Next Steps

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- District Assessment Coordinators can **complete this form** to get access to the concordance table on June 1st
- State level ACCESS data will be released in June
- CDE will share more information after standard setting, watch for updates in early fall
- Watch for new Accountability resources in late summer!