

**LONG ISLAND
REGIONAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION
RESOURCE NETWORK**

Curriculum Council Update

October 9, 2026

New York State Transitions to WIDA Exams

Legacy NYS Model

ANNUAL SUMMATIVE

NYESLAT

Annual spring English proficiency exam

INITIAL IDENTIFICATION

NYSITELL

Initial identification screener exam



New WIDA Framework

SPRING 2027

ANNUAL

WIDA ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS

Adaptive online & paper proficiency testing

FALL 2027

SCREENER

WIDA Screener (K–12)

Streamlined initial placement evaluation

New York State WIDA Transition Timeline

<div>PHASE 1</div> <div>Fall 2026</div> <div>Portal Access & Training</div> <div>WIDA Secure Portal access opens for NYS educators with professional learning modules.</div> <div> WIDA Training Kickoff & Test Ordering</div>	<div>PHASE 2</div> <div>Feb 1 – Apr 9, 2027</div> <div>WIDA ACCESS Launch</div> <div>First annual administration of WIDA ACCESS replacing the legacy NYSESLAT exam.</div> <div> K–12 Annual Assessment</div>	<div>PHASE 3</div> <div>Fall 2027</div> <div>WIDA Screener Rollout</div> <div>WIDA Screener replaces NYSITELL for initial identification of incoming ELL students.</div> <div> Initial Screener System</div>
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Key WIDA ACCESS Instruments



WIDA ACCESS Online

Adaptive online assessment for Grades 1–12 covering four language domains.



WIDA ACCESS Paper

Paper-based assessment for Grades 1-12 ELLs with disabilities with IEPs or 504s that specify paper-based tests.



Kindergarten ACCESS

Individually administered, hands-on paper test tailored for young learners.



Alternate ACCESS

Designed for ELLs with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades K–12.

Operational Milestones for Districts

1 Portal & Training Setup

Establish District Test Coordinator accounts in WIDA Secure Portal starting September 2026. Ensure Test Administrators complete required annual training modules.

2 WIDA AMS & Pre-ID Setup

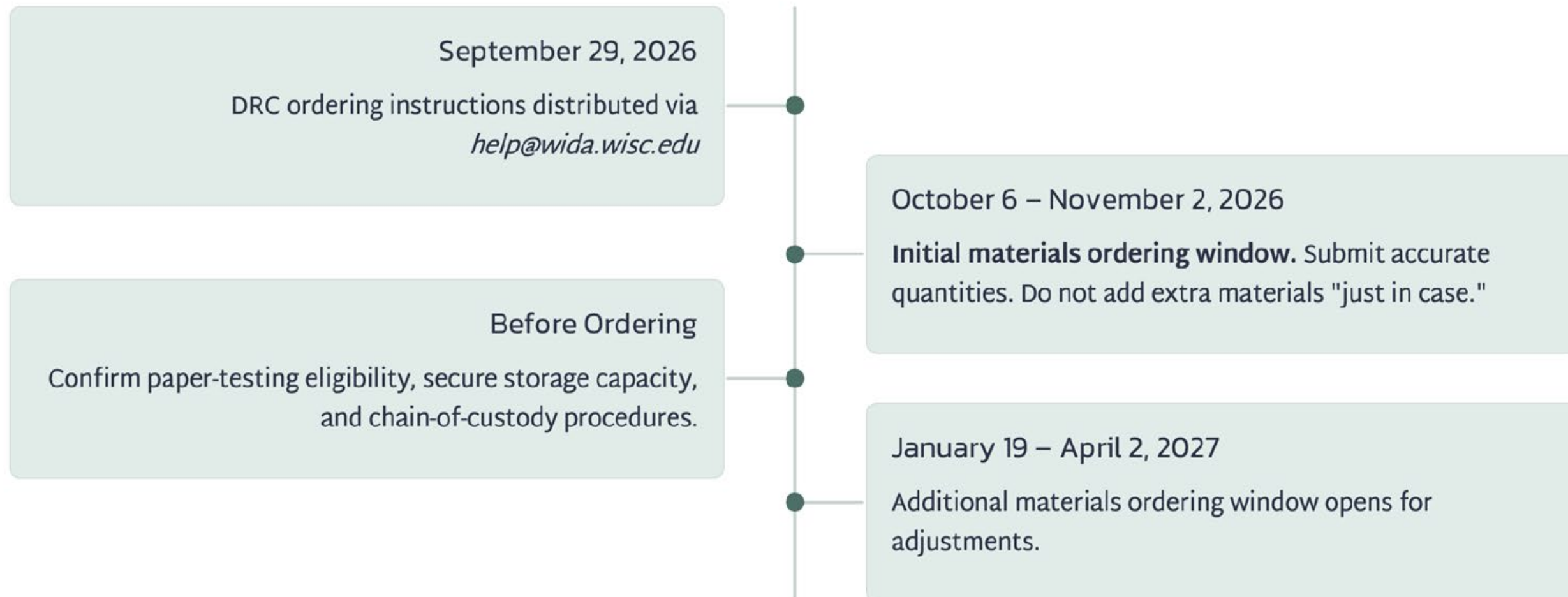
Configure DRC WIDA AMS accounts in early January 2027. Assign required testing accommodations for IEP and 504 plans prior to the testing window.

3 Testing & Screener Rollout

Administer WIDA ACCESS from February 1 to April 9, 2027. Prepare staff for the official transition to WIDA Screener in Fall 2027.

WIDA ACCESS ordering started October 6

District Test Coordinators should prepare accurate counts before the initial window closes. *We strongly encourage Test Coordinators to view the WIDA ordering webinars before ordering materials.*



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Director of Test Administration
Office of State Assessment

September 2026

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public School Districts
Principals of Public Schools
Leaders of Charter, Religious, and Independent Schools
ELL Testing Coordinators

FROM: Clara DeSorbo *Clara DeSorbo*

SUBJECT: Procedures for Requesting, Shipping, and Storing of Materials for the Administration of 2027 WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Tests

As detailed in the [Joining the WIDA Consortium and New English Language Proficiency Assessments memorandum](#), New York joined the WIDA Consortium and will be administering the WIDA suite of K–12 English language proficiency (ELP) assessments annually to English language learners (ELLs).

This memorandum provides essential information concerning the procedures for requesting, shipping, and storing materials for the WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessments.

The WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS testing window for New York State is scheduled for **Monday, February 1, 2027**, through **Friday, April 9, 2027**. Districts and schools administering WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS should review the applicable procedures for ordering, receiving, securing, and storing assessment materials throughout the testing window. The initial materials ordering window for New York State will be from **Tuesday, October 6** through **Monday, November 2, 2026**.

Test coordinators with active WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS) accounts should expect to receive communication from WIDA's assessment partner, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), on **September 29, 2026**, that details specific instructions about materials ordering. Email communications will come from help@wida.wisc.edu.

If you require a WIDA AMS account, please contact your district's ELL Testing Coordinator. If you are the ELL Testing Coordinator and do not have a WIDA AMS account, update your information in [My Contacts](#) in the NYSED Business Portal using the instructions in [P-12 My Contacts](#). Once the update is reflected in SEDREF, contact DRC Customer Service at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 to create an account.

WIDA - Technology Transition At a Glance

New York State Transition to WIDA ACCESS

Technology Directors' Transition at a Glance

The essential shift: New York joined the WIDA Consortium in 2025. Spring 2026 was the final NYSESLAT administration. WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS will be administered for the first time in New York in Spring 2027. WIDA screeners are scheduled to begin in Fall 2027.

Date	Milestone
September 9, 2026	WIDA Secure Portal available to New York educators.
September 14, 2026	WIDA AMS available.
October 6 - November 2, 2026	Test Ordering available in WIDA AMS
January 4 - April 9, 2027	WIDA AMS Test Setup for registrations
January 19 - 20, 2027	Districts Receive Test Materials
February 1-April 9, 2027	New York WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS testing window.
Fall 2027	First planned use of WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, WIDA Screener (Grades 1-12), and WIDA Alternate Screener.



ELP accountability indicator waiver

The waiver changes one accountability year; districts still administer ACCESS and publicly report results.

2026–27 results

First New York WIDA
ACCESS
administration



2027–28 determinations

ELP indicator excluded
for one year under the
approved waiver



2028–29 determinations

NYSED plans to
reinstate the ELP
indicator using 2027–
28 results

Public reporting of WIDA ACCESS results continues during the waiver year.

[NYSED waiver fact sheet](#)

[USDE Letter of Approval](#)

NEW YORK STATE ESSA ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM
Accountability Fact Sheet
WIDA-Related Accountability Waiver
For the 2027-2028 School Year



Last Updated: 9/2026

Due to the statewide transition to the WIDA English Language Development system for assessing multilingual learners, the United States Department of Education approved a waiver request from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to exclude the English Language Proficiency (ELP) accountability indicator from Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability support model determinations for the 2027-2028 school year (SY).

This approved waiver supports New York State's transition from the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) to WIDA and allows NYSED to complete necessary technical work, including standard setting, cut-point determinations, and regulatory alignment.

An Overview of New York State's Transition to WIDA

WIDA ACCESS is the collective name for WIDA's suite of summative ELP assessments with the following features:

Administered annually to students in grades K-12

Provided to grade 1-12 students via computer and to kindergarten students via paper

Includes a paper-based WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment for multilingual learners with cognitive disabilities at all grade levels

Assessment Timeline:

- Spring 2026: Final administration of the NYSESLAT. The New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) offered until replaced by WIDA Screener in Fall 2027.
- Spring 2027: First administration of WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS.
- Fall 2027: Implementation of WIDA Screener following the first administration of WIDA ACCESS.

Features of the 2027-2028 SY Approved Waiver

The waiver will apply to accountability support model determinations made in the 2027-2028 SY based on 2026-2027 SY results, in which subgroups will be identified for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Local Support and Improvement (LSI) only.

The ELP indicator will not be used to formally identify schools for TSI.

NYSED will report 2026-2027 SY ELP and annual assessment results on data.nysed.gov.



If a subgroup meets TSI criteria based on ELP outcomes, it will be identified for LSI but will have access to resources and tools, including funding.

The ELP indicator will be reinstated for accountability support model determinations in the 2028-2029 SY based on 2027-2028 SY results.

How does the 2027-2028 SY Approved Waiver Support Schools and Students?

The pause in high-stakes accountability consequences during the transition to a new assessment is not a pause from support. It is an opportunity for schools and districts to learn from the new assessment, act on the information it provides, and build stronger systems for supporting multilingual learners in the following ways.



Examine WIDA results and identify areas of strength and need



Engage in root-cause analysis around the outcomes of multilingual learners



Strengthen instructional and programmatic responses



Establish effective practices for using WIDA data to inform continuous improvement

Additional Resources

New York State School and District Accountability System Resources



For more tools and resources about the New York State ESSA Accountability System

<https://www.nysed.gov/accountability/school-and-district-accountability-resources-and-data>

NYSED Continuous Improvement Resources



To learn more about resources and supports for identified schools and districts

<https://www.nysed.gov/accountability/continuous-improvement>

WIDA



To learn more about the WIDA English Language Development system, including resources for educators, research, and assessment tools.

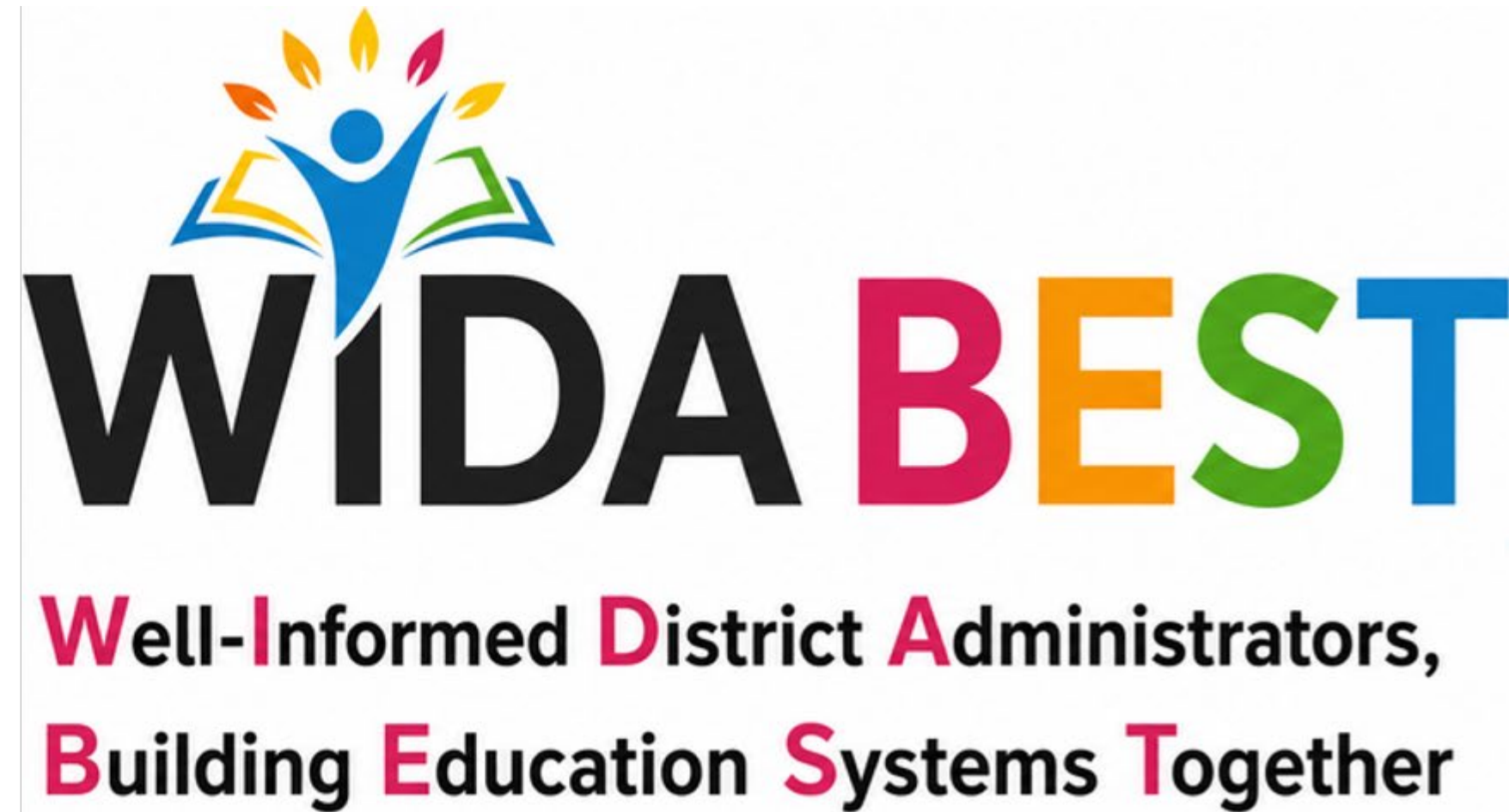
<https://wida.wisc.edu/>

NYSED WIDA



To learn more about New York State's membership in the WIDA Consortium and resources preparing educators for the WIDA assessments.

<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/wida-consortium>



NEW YORK STATE WIDA ACCESS TRANSITION

Leadership Community of Practice



A leadership space for the transition

WIDA BEST supports the systems work surrounding assessment implementation — not classroom instruction or direct test administration, but the leadership decisions that make implementation possible.

For District and School Administrators

A dedicated space for those leading implementation planning, policy interpretation, and staff communication at the district level.

Interpret Guidance Together

A place to read and make sense of public NYSED and WIDA guidance — collaboratively and in real time.

Share District Systems

A network for exchanging district systems, challenges, and emerging practices across Long Island.

Recurring Forum

A consistent monthly forum for questions, policy updates, and peer support throughout the 2026–27 transition year.

Assessment training comes directly from WIDA

WIDA controls the secure training and certification materials for its assessments.

WIDA Secure Portal

Required assessment training
On-demand modules
Certification quizzes
Completion certificates
Secure manuals and resources

RBERNs, vendors, consultants

May support leadership planning,
implementation systems, public guidance,
and networking.

They do not replace WIDA's required
assessment-administration training.

Project Based Learning & ELLs Professional Learning



ELLS & PBL SERIES: GETTING READY FOR THE NYS PROTRAIT OF A GRADUATE *2026-2027 Professional Learning*

Practices and Resources to Empower Educators of English Language Learners through Project Based Learning

Virtual Workshops 4pm-6pm

Preparing ELLs for the **NYS Portrait of a Graduate**: Project-Based Learning in Secondary Classrooms

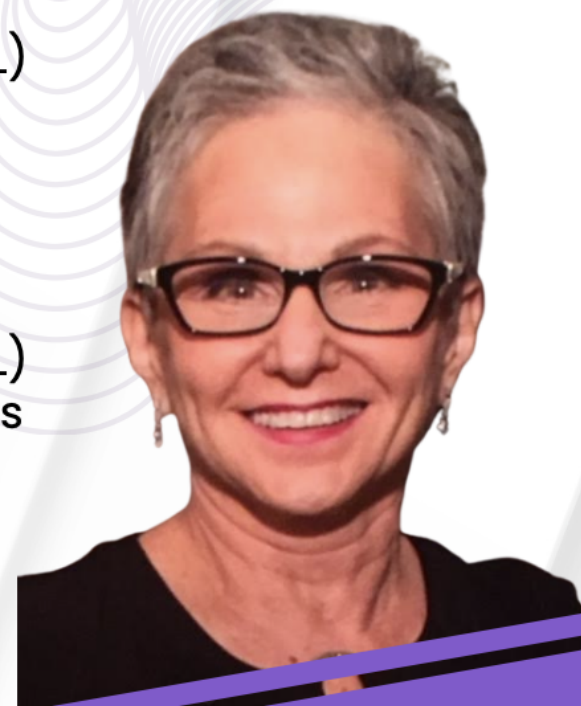
- Tuesday, November 3, 2026

ELLs and Project-Based Learning (PBL) for Elementary Teachers

- Tuesday, November 17, 2026
- Tuesday, January 12, 2027
- Thursday, March 11, 2027

ELLs and Project-Based Learning (PBL) for Secondary Content Area Teachers

- Thursday, December 3, 2026
- Wednesday, January 27, 2027
- Tuesday, March 16, 2027



Susanne Marcus
Facilitator

[Register Now](#)

Go to:
bit.ly/lirbernpdcatalog

www.longislandrbern.org



SIFE SUCCESS SERIES: Project-Based Learning 2026-2027

In-Person Workshops

SIFE and Project Based Learning (PBL) for Elementary Teachers

- Wednesday, October 21 | 9AM – 12PM
 - Location: Western Suffolk BOCES, Wheatley Heights
- Tuesday, March 2 | 9AM – 12PM
 - Location: Nassau BOCES, Lupinskie Center

SIFE and Project Based Learning (PBL) for Secondary Content Area Teachers

- Monday, November 9 | 9AM – 12PM
 - Location: Nassau BOCES, Lupinskie Center
- Thursday, March 18 9 | 9AM – 12PM
 - Location: Western Suffolk BOCES, Wheatley Heights

Virtual Workshops

Distinguishing ELL Versus SIFE

- Thursday, October 15 | 4PM – 6PM
- Monday, February 1 | 4PM – 6PM

What I'd like my teachers should know: Reflections from ELLs

- Thursday, October 29 | 4PM – 6PM



Susanne Marcus
Facilitator

[Register Now](#)



Go to:
bit.ly/lirbernpdcatalog

www.longislandrbern.org



Additional Updates

- Field Memo- ELL Identification Process Changes
- NYS Academic & Linguistic Demands (ALDs) & WIDA ACCESS Workshop
- Extension of the Supplementary Certification Pathways to August 2027
- NYSED OBEWL Voices United Save the Date- December 1, 2026
- CR-Part 154 Comprehensive ELL Education Plan (CEEP) Due October 31 (includes questions on WIDA)

Field Memo: ELL Identification Process

Clarifies that there are an additional 10 days allowed for students subject to the LPT Process.



<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/bilingual-ed/field-memo-ell-identification-final-9.10.26.pdf>



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY
12234
Office of P-12

Elisa Alvarez, Associate Commissioner
Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages
55 Hanson Place, Room 594
Brooklyn, New York 11217
Tel: (718) 722-2445 / Fax: (718) 722-2459

89 Washington Avenue, Room 301 EB
Albany, New York 12234
Tel: (518) 474-8775/ Fax: (518) 474-7948

September 16, 2026

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Administrators
Charter School Administrators
Independent and Religious School Administrators

From: Associate Commissioner Elisa Alvarez

RE: English Language Learner Identification

The New York State Department of Education Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) has identified recurring compliance issues related to the identification of English Language Learners (ELLs). This field memo reminds school districts and charter schools of their obligations under Commissioner's Regulations Part 154 (CR 154) regarding ELL identification including required staff participation, parent¹ notifications, ELL status review procedures, and record retention.

CR 154 establishes uniform statewide procedures for all school districts and charter schools making ELL identification determinations, including ensuring there is a parent review process. Charter school flexibility does not apply to this aspect of CR 154, and they must follow the administrative processes outlined for the identification of ELL students.

As a reminder, schools have ten (10) school days after enrollment or reentry to complete the identification process and place a student in an appropriate ELL placement, except for students with a disability, which allows an additional ten (10) school days. For additional information on dually identified (ELL and Special education) student identification and services, please see the 2024 guidance found [here](#).

Identification

The ELL identification screening process must commence on the date of initial enrollment or reentry into public school and must be completed before a student is provided with a final school placement. Students can be provided with a temporary/provisional school placement and program during the identification process and should not be denied immediate access to school pending an ELL determination.



NYS ALDs & WIDA ACCESS

Professional Learning

Join NYSED Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages and the Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks as we explore the instructional alignment between the NYS Academic & Linguistic Demands and the WIDA ACCESS framework.



October 14, 2026



9:00am - 12:00pm



Zoom



[Register Here](#)



Academic and Linguistic Demands:
Creating Access to the Next Generation Learning
Standards in English Language Arts
for Linguistically Diverse Learners



New York State Education Department
Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



Supplementary Cert Pathways Flexibility

Extended to August 31, 2027



<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/bilingual-ed/final-2027-supplementary-certificate-options-for-esol-and-bilingual-extension-a.pdf>

Options for Supplementary Certificate Pathways		
Option One (1): Bilingual Education Assessment (BEA) Flexibility	Option Two (2): Supplementary English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Certification	Option Three (3): English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Certified Teachers
Holds a Valid NYS Classroom Teaching Certification		Holds a Valid NYS ESOL Certification
Bilingual Education Assessment (BEA), more information	Suboption One (1) - Content Specialty Test (CST) - ESOL or Safety Net ESOL, more information	Suboption One (1) - Content Specialty Test (CST) in requested subject area, more information
	Suboption One flexibility expires August 31, 2024	
	Suboption Two (2) - College Coursework: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teaching Literacy Skills Methods (3 S.H.)- Teacher Literacy Skills (3 S.H.)- Methods of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (3 S.H.)	Suboption Two (2) - Supplementary Certificate Content Core in subject area requested (12 S.H.)
Additional Requirements² Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Child Abuse Identification2. School Violence Intervention and Prevention3. Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Fingerprint Clearance Superintendent's Statement		
Need more information? See below:		
Search Certification Requirements via NYSED OTI: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Area of interest - <i>Other School Service</i>2. Subject Area - <i>Bilingual Education</i>3. Grade Level - <i>Pre K-12 - All Grades</i>4. Title - <i>(select what applies)</i>5. Type of Certificate - <i>Supplementary Certificate</i>	Search Certification Requirements via NYSED OTI: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Area of interest - <i>Classroom Teacher</i>2. Subject Area - <i>English to Speakers of Other Languages</i>3. Grade Level - <i>Pre K-12 - All Grades</i>4. Title - <i>English to Speakers of Other Languages</i>5. Type of Certificate - <i>Supplementary Certificate</i>	Search Certification Requirements via NYSED OTI: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Area of interest - <i>Classroom Teacher</i>2. Subject Area - <i>(select what applies)</i>3. Grade Level - <i>(select what applies)</i>4. Title - <i>(select what applies)</i>5. Type of Certificate - <i>Supplementary Certificate</i>



SAVE THE DATE

VOICES UNITED



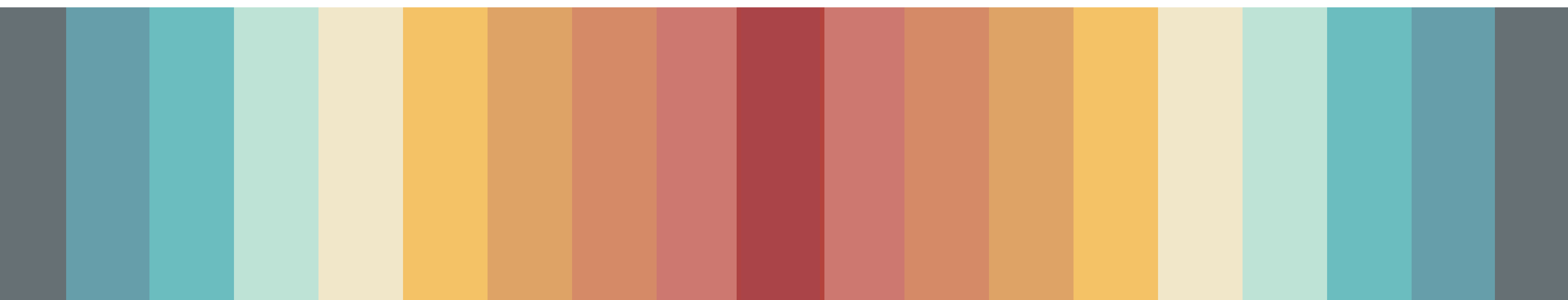
FRAMING
THE FUTURE

THROUGH MULTILINGUALISM

DECEMBER 1, 2026



CR Part 154 CEEP Update



What's New for 26-27?

- Major areas of change:
 - Streamlined assurances
 - Several 2025-26 narratives and evidence uploads have been removed
 - added WIDA ACCESS transition and training
 - added ELL student data reflection
 - Professional Development Plan upload
 - Reorganized Bilingual Education Programming section
 - Use the [2026-27 Submission Guide](#) as you complete the CEEP
- **Due:** October 31, 2026



Assurances & Updates #18 - ELL Student Data Reflection

NEW for 2026-27

Reflect on ELL student data: What is working well, and what may need to be improved?

Consider:

- English language proficiency growth
- ELL and Former ELL graduation rates
- ELL participation in advanced coursework
- 3-8 Math/ELA, grades 5 & 8 Science, Regents and local data
- Types of progress monitoring and how the district uses that data throughout the year

Assurances & Updates #19 - WIDA Transition Assurances

NEW for 2026-27

Confirm that district and building leadership are aware of:

- New York's state-specific WIDA webpage
- 2027 ACCESS testing window: February 1 - April 9, 2027
- WIDA Secure Portal and required online training
- Alternate ACCESS for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities

Assurances & Updates #20 - WIDA Training Plan

NEW for 2026-27

Describe how Test Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Test Administrators will be given time to complete required online training.

- Training must be completed before test administration begins February 1, 2027.
- Consider departmental meetings, Superintendent's Conference Days, or other designated training time.
- Not all staff need every module — training is specific to the assessment administered.

L.I. RBERN CEEP Assistance

<https://forms.gle/GGiRmQHi3R37oNRE9>

It is imperative that your CEEP is close to completion before meeting with RBERN staff. In addition, be sure to compile any questions you may have beforehand so that we can make the best use of our time.



LONG
ISLAND



RBERN

Thank you!

Eastern Office: 631-218-5175

Western Office: 631-595-6911

LongIslandRBERN.org

