Transcript of Administering the New WIDA Screener

Anne Scoufalos: Good morning and welcome to this Pennsylvania Department of Education English as a Second Language Professional Development opportunity. I'm Anne Scoufalos, ESL technical assistance coordinator for the Center for Schools and Communities, and I'll be the moderator for this online session. Today's session is entitled Administering the New WIDA Screener and is being presented by Dr. Eugenia Krimmel, ESL Bilingual Education Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education.

This webinar is designed for test administrators who will be using the new WIDA screener to identify English learners in grades one through 12. We are very pleased to be able to offer this live online learning session today and welcome all of you who are able to join us. This session is offered in partnership with the Center for Schools and Communities, and is being moderated from their Camp Hill office. Thank you very much. We will now begin today's presentation. Eugenia, I am turning the webinar session over to you.

Dr. Eugenia: Okay. Thank you, Anne. I appreciate that. Anne Scoufalos, as you know, is the ESL technical assistant for the Center for Schools and Communities, and I also have here by my side, Tammy Schaefer of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. So, let's get started. Okay. Great. Thank you.

The webinar objectives today are that participants will be able to understand timelines related to the rollout and implementation of the new screener in Pennsylvania, access the online and paper-based training modules. You will see how to do that. Access the WIDA AMS, you will be able to set up the testing sessions and produce student test tickets, and then access to the WIDA store for the purchase of paper-based materials. The WIDA webinar that we have today will embed the archived or the pre-made WIDA webinar, but they actually have a live webinar tomorrow if you wish to attend that, or have time to attend that. So, that's April 7th, from 2PM Eastern time and you may be able to ask some questions at that point. So, we wanted to let you know that's available and you're certainly welcome to jump on to that one. And, that will again have live questions for you.

Today's WIDA webinar portion has a one minute delay while they're switching presenters. So, the one that they archived has this sort of odd pause in the middle. So, please stay tuned to that. We don't want you to think it's done. So, just listen for that when we switch to it. Then, we are presenting today the WIDA webinar information and we are not including the archived question and answer session in interest of time. We want to be sure that we have enough time to answer your questions on the PA specific information. But, as I say, you could log on tomorrow and ask questions on their live webinar.

Now, we are going to go to the WIDA webinar for approximately 30 minutes. I just want to mention to anyone who is listening to this archived version, we are unable by copyright laws to embed a WIDA screener in an archived webinar on

the ESL portal or the PD portal, so if you're listening to this in an archived fashion, you will be sent a link and then you can link over to that webinar, but we can embed it live as such right now, so we are going to switch over to that. It will be about 30 minutes. Hopefully you can take some notes and start thinking about some questions you might have.

Anne Scoufalos: Thank you for attention to that WIDA portion and we will be back with you just momentarily for some PA specific information, and then we'll turn it over to questions, and we have quite a few good ones coming in. So, we'll be back in just a moment.

Dr. Eugenia: Okay. Thank you, Anne. Sorry for the delay, everyone. Hopefully that was very helpful to you. It was sort of an initial introduction to the WIDA screener resources. So, if you do have questions about ... And, I'm sure you will, because this is all new to us, please refer to the WIDA information. This is not our system at the PDE, this is WIDA system, so I'm going to ask you to ask three before me, okay? I used to use that technique with my students. Ask three before me. Refer to the TAM or the OTAM, which is the Test Administrator Manual, or go to the WIDA website and their rich resources, or to the DRC's WIDA AMS user guide. Look to those three documents before you contact us related to the system and the way that it runs, because this is not ours. I'm going to ask you to refer to them.

Now, let's take a look at the PA-Specific information and those are questions that we can answer at the PD. Under ESSA, states are required to use a statewide, standardized English Language Proficiency or ELP test as part of the identification process, and all four domains must be assessed to determine classification as an EL or English Learner, including all entering kindergarten students. That is a little shift from what we have done so far. We've mostly worked with kindergarten students with just the oral language components listening and speaking, but it is not required using the WABT, which is not the screener here, but just to let you know, you have to again administer all four of these domains.

For grades one through 12, it is optional use to use the WIDA screener starting April 1st and going through June 30th. So, that's a local decision, but this is giving you time to work out your policies and procedures for using this screener, and getting ready for the required use of the WIDA screener on July 1st, 2017, the new school year.

Test security for the WIDA screener. Pennsylvania follows the WIDA Test Administrator Manual's test security measures and it is the same measures as the WIDA ACESS for Els 2.0. Excuse me.

The accommodations and accessibility for the screener, again, Pennsylvania defers to the WIDA Accommodations and Accessibility Manual used for the ACCESS for Els 2.0 assessment. So, please refer to that documentation for accommodations and accessibility. For PA-specific guidance, LEAs should refer

to the Pennsylvania FAQs related to the ACCESS for Els 2.0 for students with an IEP or for those suspected of having a disability. The link is here on this slide and it was also attached to the handouts that were sent to you previously.

PA-Specific certification. The Test Administration Certification, again, PA follows the WIDA certification procedures. However, for speaking, the test administrator must recertify yearly in Pennsylvania. Please refer to the test administrator manuals of the paper or online versions for further details.

The online writing domain in Pennsylvania as mentioned in the WIDA screener, the grades one through three are on paper, and it will be the same here in Pennsylvania. The students will write in the student response booklets or writing response booklets, I think it might have been called. And, the grades four through 12 will keyboard and respond online. As an accommodation, however, Pennsylvania will allow handwriting for any student in any grade for those unfamiliar or uneasy with an English keyboard. So, that will be a local decision that you make, but that accommodation is available, so you will have to have the paper versions ready to go of the student writing handbooks or booklets in case a student is showing that, even as it says in the next bullet, even if logging in and starting the test and the student expresses discomfort, concern, or anxiety about keyboarding, you may allow the student to hand write his or her response.

Note that these students still view the writing test prompt on the desktop, laptop, or tablet. So, keep that in mind. This is found in the Test Administrator Manual page 39.

Not all domains administered in Pennsylvania. If a student is unable to complete the full screener, for example, because of a disability or refusal, then the determination of the EL status must be made based on the remaining evidence gathered from the home language survey, the parent interview which we are introducing to the new identification process, and academic records review indicating language skill levels such as a strategic reading and writing course or something like that.

If reasonable evidence of English proficiency cannot be established based on those sources, along with the incomplete screener results, if any, then the student should be identified as an EL.

The screener score reports ... I'm sorry? Nope. That was correct.

The screen score reports in Pennsylvania online, if you're administering this online, please print out the score report and keep that in the student information folder on site as your LEA. If you are administering the paper, the student response booklets should be kept in the student information folder addition to the screener score reports.

Just taking its sweet old time. It's raining here, so I guess it's raining on the computer, too. Okay.

As for the handouts related to the screener, consumables on the paper and the version that it would be needed for the students to write in the handbook. So, any consumables such those are downloadable and are free off of the WIDA website. The test administration manual is also available. Non-consumables are fee-based. So, you'll have to go to the WIDA store for ordering options and there are many options and packages, and so forth, and certain things that you will have to purchase. Some of them will be a one-time purchase, others you may have to get one for each school, et cetera, so you have to go in as a district and as a school and purchase the text booklets, some of the audio pieces, and the scripts.

You can refer to the handout sent with the PowerPoint we have today, The WIDA Assessment Product Comparison. We thought that might be of interest to you, but it gives you an overall look also at all of the assessment products from the WIDA website.

For your resource, this is the direct link if you will, to download the Test Administration Manual of the WIDA Screener Paper Version. There is also a manual for the online version. So, you want to go in and you can see on the screen where it's located. It's usually under the logistics tab. I highly suggest you print both of those and go through those very carefully, and write down and of the state specific information where is mentioned in the manual, so you have that at the ready. But, this gives you the information that you need to successfully administer the test.

And, now, we will take any questions that you might have. Hopefully, launching the WIDA PowerPoint webinar answered most of your questions for you, but if you have some more questions related specifically to the WIDA screener and the administration of the WIDA screener, please let us know. We will not be getting into any of the back revisions or anything like that today, because those things have not been decided and officially approved at this point, but we'll be glad to answer any PA-specific questions about the use of the WIDA Screener.

Anne Scoufalos:	Thank you very much, Genie. Sorry that we're having a little bit of a technical issue, so we're flipping microphones back and forth. So, do have some patience with us as we figure out who is talking into what. We have a lot of great questions submitted so far, so we are going to pause for just a moment to organize some of the questions. There are some duplicates. And, we will be back in just a moment to begin addressing those. Thank you.
	Okay, great. So, our first question. Is there a training checklist for teachers as there was for WIDA ACCESS?
Dr. Eugenia:	Unfortunately, I did not see any on the WIDA information. So, I don't believe there is any through WIDA as there had been for the ACCESS that would have come through WIDA.
Anne Scoufalos:	Okay, great. Thank you, Genie. We do have quite a few people requesting the slides for the WIDA portion of the presentation today. What we will do is we'll be

archiving this presentation and placing it on the ESL portal. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to directly place WIDA materials onto the portal, so we will be linking you through to the recording so that you can have the PA-Specific information and the recording from WIDA. We'll do a search and see if the actual PowerPoint slides are available rather than the recording. If so, we will place that link also on the ESL portal. We'll do our best to track those down for you. So, I can't say 100% yes. We'll see what is available and archive those all together on the portal. Thank you for that question.

Moving on. We have another question regarding permissions. If teachers have permission to add students to DRC for the screener, will they automatically have permissions to add students to the ACCESS?

Dr. Eugenia: Okay, great. That's a great question for your logistics. So, the permission has been given to the test coordinators to decide who will be able to administer the test and of those administrators, who may be able to score the test. In other words, you could have some central office folks administering the test and being able to log on and so forth, but not give them the permission to score the tests so that only the certified ESL teachers can do the scoring. So, that's a local decision and that is in control of the test coordinator. The state does not make that decision. We only open it up to the test coordinators and then from there, they can give those two discreet point permissions.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay. Great. Thank you, Genie. Our next question. What happens if the student is having difficulty with the first section, listening, or if the student doesn't know how to read in English? Do we have to move on in each domain?

Dr. Eugenia: Again, I believe that would be a question to ask specifically to WIDA as to how that would happen. Is there something you have to indicate, which once you go through the videos, you will see how you would have to. So, if the child stops at the listening and is at the frustration point, which often times this is really a frustration test, and that is perfectly fine. Then, how do you progress through there? You will have to look at the videos and then look at the test manuals, and then if you still do not have the answers that you need, please contact the WIDA help desk.

Anne Scoufalos: So, our next question is is PDE requiring a particular version? The paper or the online and from when is it effective?

Dr. Eugenia: Okay. We are requiring either the paper or the online version depending on grade level or accommodation or what have you. So, it is an option now between now and June 30th. Then, as of July 1st, it is required to use either the paper or the online version of the screener.

Just to remind you, there is a cost if you are administering through the paper version. So again, you need to go onto the WIDA screener store, if you will, and check into those prices, but there is a cost involved with the paper, whereas online there is no cost.

Anne Scoufalos:	Great, thank you. Our next question. Will the screener software be accessible from the same Insight software as the ACCESS 2.0 testing? If yes, I assume that additional functionality will be reflected through the Insight client update?
Dr. Eugenia:	From what I understand, it has a new tile for the screener and therefore, there isn't anything extra you have to add to it from that. So, beyond that, you can ask WIDA help desk, but that's how I understand it will appear for you, that those tiles will come up.
Anne Scoufalos:	Great. Our next question. Are we going to be able to complete the screener in one session?
Dr. Eugenia:	Okay. Great. That's a good question. The test was meant to be done all in one session. Having said that, it can be done individually. The domains can be cut up or split up as needed. So, you can do the listening and reading, and then at another time or later that day, do the speaking and writing, and that kind of thing.

What was the other thing you said, Tammy? |
Tammy:	[inaudible 00:19:42] There's practice involved.
Dr. Eugenia:	There was something I wanted to remind you and that was when you start the test, there is sort of an entry level, or an entry level task that has to be done first. Just a reminder that it's sort of a practice similar to the way you have it with the WAPT now, there's a practice or a sample. So, just to remind you, there will be one like that also on the screener for each section. Alright, thank you.
Anne Scoufalos:	Okay, great. The next question. Does the screener writing test booklet need to be printed in color?
Dr. Eugenia:	Great. On the OTAM or the Online Test Administration Manual page nine, it gives you the printer options. It is it preferable to be printed in color and then option two, you have black and white. So, that would be a local decision, but you do have that information in the OTAM on page nine.
Anne Scoufalos:	Okay, great. Our next question. We administer the ACCESS 2.0 this spring, March 2017, does our TSM need an additional update to be able to administer the screener or will it be ready to go as is? Hold on just a moment while we try to pinpoint an answer for you on that.
Dr. Eugenia:	That's a good question. A lot of people are actually asking that. It's my understanding that you do not need to upload anything new, but I would suggest contacting DRC, because individually, you may have some issue that you would need some updating, because I know there's variations in technology, but the intent is not to have any additional technology needs. Please contact DRC about that if you have an individual question.
Anne Scoufalos:	Okay. Our next question. How long does the training take for ESL teachers?

Dr. Eugenia:	Okay. According to the test manual, it takes about one to two hours for each grade cluster that you take. So, depending on how many grade clusters ... No, did I say it wrong?
Tammy:	I think one to two is the maximum if they're doing [inaudible 00:22:08] clusters, it might go further.
Dr. Eugenia:	Is the maximum with the three grade clusters? Okay. That's the way it is. And, then if you are doing only certain grade clusters, then it would be a little less. For example, if you're ... From what we understand from the TAM, is that if you are administering this K12, they recommend only three grade clusters that you'd have to take. So, that would kind of be the maximum. Grade one, grades four-five cluster, and then grades nine-12 cluster would be the training modules that you take and they should go somewhere between an hour to two hours. So, if you're only administering to grades let's say one through five, then you only have to take two of those. Again, please refer to the Test Administration manual.
Anne Scoufalos:	Next question. My ESL teachers are contracted into the districts that I support. If I am following this correctly, the home district will not be responsible for going onto the DRC site, setting up the screener, and printing the test tickets?
Dr. Eugenia:	Okay, thanks. For example, for schools that have IU's coming in or other contractors coming in, again, it goes to the ESL test coordinator to assign and to give permissions on the WIDA system to those who can administer the test as opposed to those who can score it or both. So, if you have contractors or are a contractor, you need to contact the test coordinator to get those permissions.
Anne Scoufalos:	Okay, great. Our next question. Can the writing domain be completed with pencil and paper?
Dr. Eugenia:	That is correct. Yes, that can be an option as an accommodation or for grades one through three, that will be already the format that they will use. You can download the student writing booklets for that accommodation or for those grades one through three.
Anne Scoufalos:	Great. Thank you. Our next question. In Pennsylvania, how will students with severe cognitive disabilities be assessed for placement into an ESL program?
Dr. Eugenia:	Good question. And again, I'll refer you back to the PowerPoint that came with this webinar on slide 10. The Pennsylvania policy about the "Not all domains administered". Having said that, we are having discussions with Patton and the Office of Special Education of the PDE to discuss any further information that we may have to provide for you with specific populations such as you described. Please refer to that policy and stay tuned.
Anne Scoufalos:	Okay, great. Our next question. In my building we like to screen new registrants before we make a schedule for them. Will we still be able to do that? I wonder,

because when you register a student in AMS, you have to put the state ID and it always takes a week or two for the districts to receive that.

That's a great question. You can put in a dummy number or if you have a district ID that's available from the start, you can use that number in the WIDA AMS and then as you receive the PA secure ID, then you can update that number to be reflective of the state ID. So, you can keep your process as you describe it in place, just as long as you update the ID number when the PA secure ID is available.

There is a question regarding quizzes. Is there a quiz we must take to be a test administrator?

Dr. Eugenia: Technically, there is a certification module, not a quiz per se, but yes. So, please refer to the Test Administration manual to know what is required. Pennsylvania is following WIDA's certification requirements, so please refer to that so that you have the proper training and practice for this before you administer the test.

Anne Scoufalos: Great. Our next question. Should we give ACCESS to every teacher to print the tickets for the screeners?

Dr. Eugenia: That I believe is a local decision based on your procedures and policies that you have put in place. So, this is the time to practice that and make those decisions based on what you now know and the capabilities that you have.

Anne Scoufalos: Great. Our next question. For clarification, when scoring grades one to three, speaking and writing locally, we follow the same scoring guidelines as with the WAPT and then enter the results into WIDA's screener to get a composite score?

Dr. Eugenia: Technically, no. You follow the procedures for the screener. So, the Test Administration manual will give you all of that information on how to score and you go along with that scale, and so forth. The WAPT is no longer going to be used for grades one through 12, and it will no longer be supported or available to you as of this August. So, please refer to all of the procedures for the screener.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay, great. Again, the next question is along the same lines. Is the new online WIDA screener mandatory or can we still use the WAPT? And, as Eugenia just mentioned, use of the screener is optional from now until July 1st. From July 1st, the screener is the required mandatory implement for Pennsylvania.

Okay. Another question. Could you please explain further the difference between administering grades one to three and grades four to 12? Paper versus online?

Dr. Eugenia: Sure. Yeah. So, grades one through three are already set up in the WIDA screener system to be administer the speaking on paper. And, the four to 12 is using the online system with the keyboard. However, if in Pennsylvania you find that a student in grades four through 12, I mean, already we have it set up for one through three, but any student in any grade who seems unfamiliar or uneasy using the keyboard ... Because, as you may know, keyboards in other countries

are completely different than an English keyboard, if you've ever lived or worked abroad or gotten a computer and the keyboard itself is different. So, the keys may actually be different or the way the keys look may be the same, but when you press them, they have a different letter or symbol depending on the language. So, a student may come over and be uneasy with that keyboard. If you find that's the case, then you can switch over to the paper test.

If you read the Test Administration manual, you'll see where you do have to enter "Student completed on paper". You have to have something in the box to continue that and that is something you will learn as you look through the Test Administration manual, but that is an accommodation you can give even during the test, but you can also make that decision prior to administering the writing test for grades four through 12. Okay. Hopefully I've answered the question properly.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay. Great. Our next question. If a newcomer or beginning student is unable to understand the test, approximately how long will it take to complete the screener?

Dr. Eugenia: That is a really tough question to answer. I mean, again, as you saw on the WIDA screener, it could take up to 75 minutes for all four domains. So, if the student is struggling and not able to get that done then of course it would be less time than that. And, there is again, in the Test Administration manual, you will see that if a student is not able to complete a particular domain and you want to go on, there is a mechanism to do that. But, that is their system so you will have to read that and study that so that you know what to do, if for example, they just get frustrated at listening and then you want to move them on to reading and so forth, and try to get them through. So, if they are a very low level, which I can totally imagine we're going to get many students like that, take a look at that manual.

Really get to know what your procedure is for that frustration point, because when you were giving the WAPT before, you could sense that while you were administering the test. So, we still can do that, but there is sort of a force stop, but there's a way to move it on to the next domain and then complete the test, even if they're zeroes. There's a place for you to write certain information. So, hopefully it will become routine after a while, but it is fairly new to us.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay, great. We have another question for screening kindergarten students. In June of this year, do all four domains need to be tested?

That's a great question. So, the PD has not released formal guidance on using the four domains. So, until that new guidance is released, you're following the old procedures. So, we're looking at the two domains that we know and love, and then when the new guidance is formally released across the state, we'll of course let everybody know, and then you'll follow that new policy.

Tammy: And, hopefully that will be in June, but we don't know for sure.

Anne Scoufalos:	Okay. The exact timeline on that is hopefully sooner than later, but we don't have an exact date to share with you on that.
Tammy:	[inaudible 00:32:32]
Anne Scoufalos:	So, when keyboarding for writing and uncomfortable, then they hand write on what? Just paper?
	That's a good question. And, it is detailed in that Test Administration manual, so there is a process where you give the student paper, and they complete it on paper, and then you score it and put it into the calculator, and destroy the materials, and it's all very detailed in the Test Administration manual. So, they do write on paper is the short answer, and then check the manual for the actual ...
Tammy:	And, let's remind them that they will continue to see the prompts online.
Anne Scoufalos:	Oh, yeah. Good point. The prompts will remain online, but the student will be writing on paper. Good question.
	Tammy has a good point as well, for the students taking the online screener, there is online practice that they will use to become familiar with the technology before actually taking the assessment. That's a good test to see how comfortable they are with keyboarding through that practice section.
	We have another great question coming through. We have concerns about parents being able to opt their children or refuse ESL services. Any suggestions how to deal with that considering the new screener and the parent interview?
Dr. Eugenia:	That's a good logistics questions and basically, the answer is the screening will come before the opt out option, so because you are presenting to the parents, sending them the parent notification later after you have identified the child as an EL, so they do not have the option, and still by federal law, they do not have the option to opt out of the ELP or the English Language Proficiency test. So, that is part of the identification process. Now, with our new parent interview, hopefully you'll get a sense for the need for this child to have that, but you will not be informing the parent of the status that the child has gotten until you give the screener. Once you have given the screener and the child meets the threshold for needing ELD or English Language Development instruction programs and services, then you inform the parent that the child is eligible or is identified as an EL.
	Then, in that parent notification letter, you can have a sentence in there just saying that parents do have the right to refuse any ESL program and services that separate the child from the other students, and I highly recommend that you say to them that they could come into the office and discuss it, because you as an ELA must inform the parents of the program that is chosen based on the identification process, which includes this WIDA screener. So, think about your procedures and your process, but this screener comes before the ESL parent

refusal option is made available to the parents. Hopefully I've made that clear, but again, that's kind of putting the cart before the horse when you don't know if the child will have qualified or not for the EL status based partially on the WIDA screener.

Anne Scoufalos: Great. Thanks, Genie. Next submitted question. If it is mandatory to use the online screener for all students, what do we do with families who refuse technology based on religious beliefs?

The new screener is mandatory from July 1st. We are not requiring the online versus the paper, so you have to use the new screener from July 1st. That is mandatory. But, which version, paper or online is at the discretion of your school. Again, there is cost associated with the paper, so do take that into consideration, but it is not mandatory to use the online screener.

Our next question. Audio is online, isn't it? Why do we have to buy it?

If you're doing the online version, then the audio is a part of that. It's if you're doing the paper version that you have to purchase a CD or USB. You'll have some options for the audio portion.

Our next question. Newcomer students have different levels. Most of my newcomers don't know English at all. We're still giving the test and how will I score?

The policy in Pennsylvania is that you will administered the domains to the extent practical and then follow the policy that is outlined on slide 10 of this presentation for students that are unable to complete all the domains.

Dr. Eugenia: If I may add to that, just again to remind you that there is a procedure to move along, particularly if you're doing this online. If the student cannot perform the listening, but you want to move on to the reading, and then the speaking and the writing, there is a procedure in the test manual how to do that so that you can show that you have administered all four domains. So, make sure you do that, because that has to be recorded into the student file that that has been done. You can't just stop and take them off the computer and say they couldn't go anywhere with the rest of this, so we just stopped it. It's not a force stop thing. You have to go through and say that you've administered and there's been attempted-ness so to speak on the student's part, whether they can take the test or not, there is that attempted-ness factor. So, make sure you read the Test Administrator manual for both the online and the paper, but particularly for the online for that particular aspect.

Anne Scoufalos: In Pennsylvania, will first semester first grade students take the kindergarten WAPT or the first grade screener?

Dr. Eugenia: No, the children will now take the first grade screener. It has been adjusted so that they're aware of the capabilities of the children in the first grade first

semester, but as of July 1st, you are required to use only the WIDA screener grade one for those students.

Anne Scoufalos: Great. Thank you. If you're using the online screener, is there a fee for districts? Are there specific items we need to purchase from WIDA in order to administer the online screener?

Dr. Eugenia: Nope. The online screener is completely free. It is the paper version that has some required purchase items and you need to refer to the WIDA store to be able to see those prices, the packages, and the ordering options that you have. But, the online is completely free.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay. Great. Our next question. Is the WIDA screener paper version different from the WAPT?

Dr. Eugenia: Yes. The two tests are different in many ways. I don't know specifically, you could go onto WIDA's website. You can see a little bit more of their information in the research, but I know that they have adjusted it to their new standards, the 2012 standards, whereas the WAPT was created prior to that. So, I do believe there is more rigor involved, but it aligns different than the WAPT.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay. Great. Next question. Well, concern. Newly enrolled native English speaking kindergarten students do not have their writing assessed for placement, because it's developmentally inappropriate. How is this an equitable practice to assess potential ELs writing in kindergarten?

Dr. Eugenia: Well, many educators may agree or disagree with you on that one. It is a federal law. Under ESSA, it is now required, if you go back to the statute, and you're certainly welcome to look for the reference, but it says all students must be assessed with the four domains as part of the identification process. It does not, however, mean that we have to take all four domains into consideration. So, we're in the process right now of discussing the kindergarten situation as far as what we should weigh for identifying the students. So, we must assess them. We will use the oral language for sure, but we are discussing the weight of the literacy for the kindergarten placement. But, it is a federal law. So, that is why it is now required.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay. We have another question. We've answered this. I'm not sure when this was submitted, but we can touch back on it again regarding the PA state secure ID being issued and that it's A requirement for the test sessions.

So again, you have to put in an ID for the test sessions. It can be a dummy ID, it can be a district ID, and then you can update using the PA secure ID when it is available. So, the timing of the PA secure ID being issued should not affect you being able to administer the WIDA screener.

Great. Our next question. How would a school go about using the WIDA online screener for a student who takes PASSA?

Dr. Eugenia:	Because the student is newly enrolling, we don't know if they're going to use the PASSA or not. So, when you are administering the WIDA screener to a student who is newly enrolling, you would refer to the WIDA accommodations and accessibility guide for any issues you feel a student who has an IEP or suspected of having disability may present when you are administering the screener. But, it has nothing to do with the PASSA, because we don't know yet if that student would be qualified.
Anne Scoufalos:	Great. We have another question. Peter from the WIDA section of the presentation mentioned that newcomers can take a grade level cluster below, is this also true for first semester fourth graders that are not newcomers? Would this student take the two-three cluster? Is the score adjusted like it was on the WAPT?
Dr. Eugenia:	I think if I'm not mistaken when you say "Not a newcomer" you mean not new to the country? If that's correct, I'm not 100% sure what you mean by "Not a newcomer", but any student who is coming into your district and being screened for eligibility for ELD services will go along with what WIDA has recommended there with the grade. I think they called it "Over age cluster" or something like that. They had a term for it in the manual and Peter presented it. So, the incoming first semester first grader, no matter where he or she is coming from would be allowed to take the grade cluster two-three.
Anne Scoufalos:	Great. We have another question. When we schedule families to come in for ESL testing previously, it would take between 20 to 60 minutes for testing and we would have scores available for parents before they left. With the new online screener they are saying it could take up to two hours to have scores. Do you have any recommendations as far as providing results to parents and scheduling families in a timely manner, especially in the beginning of the year when we have lots of parents registering?
Dr. Eugenia:	Wow. Yeah. No, we don't have any actual recommendations, 'cause that's a local decision, but this is the time to go through that policy and procedures, and kind of figure out how to do that in the system that you currently have, 'cause LEA has a little bit of a different system each time. I don't know. Do you have any other thoughts, Anne or Tammy, to help out with that? No? Okay.
Anne Scoufalos:	Just that again it's up to two hours, so often the test runs quicker than that. That being said, the start of the school year is going to [inaudible 00:45:15] you can imagine is going to be burdened, though as you are putting policies in place at the beginning of the year, I would expect that it's going to be on that longer end, closer to the two hours. So, maybe it would go quicker, but whatever policies you do put into place, I would think at the beginning of the year, we are looking at that longer end.
Dr. Eugenia:	Just to remind you. You don't have to give parents the answer immediately. So, you can go through the process you have now and do the testing later on. Or, you can administer the test, but the score particularly for the speaking and the

writing could happen a day or so later, so keep that in mind. But, you have up to 30 days to notify the parents at the first day of school or 14 days during the school year. So, when the parent is in with the child, again, you could administer that test, or you could do that during the school day up to that time limit of the 30 days or the 14. Just a little reminder there.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay. We're coming towards the end of our window. We can answer a couple more questions, but before I do that I just want to remind everyone to take a few minutes to complete the brief online evaluation that will be emailed to each of you after today's session. Your feedback concerning today's session is very important and will help the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Center for Schools and Communities to offer online sessions of the highest quality.

Okay. We'll go and get a couple more questions in here. Will all users of WIDA AMS have the ability to upload new students into AMS or only the testing coordinator?

Dr. Eugenia: The coordinators automatically have that permission, but they will then give test administrators the ability to do that or not. So, that will be up to the test coordinator, but test coordinators themselves have the ability automatically, as I understand it.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay. Last question that I think we're going to have time for today. Is the timeframe for screening a new student going to remain the same or will we receive more time, because of the required speaking retraining?

Dr. Eugenia: No, that's federally required that you have 30 days from the first day or prior to the first day of school that you have to go through the entire identification process and notifying the parents that these students are identified as ELs and are eligible for the ESL program or ELD program in your school. Then, 14 days during the school year. So, as of the second day or any day after that, you have only 14 calendar days to get that information solidified and to the parents. So, no, there are absolutely no changes. This WIDA screener is only with the consortium states. There are 39 in the consortium now and the federal law of course is for all the states. Okay. Thank you so much.

Anne Scoufalos: Okay, great. Thank you, Eugenia. We have run out of time, so we are going to wrap up this webinar session at this time. We were not able to get to the questions that were submitted today. So, please if one of your questions was not answered, email them to the RA-LEP@PA.Gov email account and we'll respond to your questions as soon as possible. As a reminder, this webinar session along with the link to the WIDA portion will be archived and posted on the ESL portal within a couple days along with the PowerPoint presentation and the other handout. If we are able to find those PowerPoint slides from WIDA, we will throw those in as well.

Again, I want to thank everyone for joining us today and hope today's session addressed your questions concerning the WIDA screener. Thank you.