

## ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinars/Q&A Sessions Begin in September

This month marks the beginning of the webinar series for 2016–17. These webinars are offered by WIDA and DRC to support educators with the preparation and administration of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. The dates, times, and topics for the September sessions are listed below.

- **September 27** from 11:00am–12:00pm CT  
*Pre-Testing: Training at [wida.us](http://wida.us)*
- **September 28** from 2:00pm–3:00pm CT  
*Pre-Testing: New in WIDA-AMS & User Accounts*
- **September 29** from 1:00pm–2:00pm CT  
*Pre-Testing: Software Updates & Technology Readiness Checklist*

The full webinar schedule for September 2016 through June 2017 is available on the Preparation & Training tab on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 webpage. Here is the link.  
<https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS20.aspx#prep>

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## WIDA Early Years Updates

### *Minnesota is Newest WIDA Early Years Partner*

In August 2016 the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) joined the group of states partnering with WIDA to support dual language learners ages 2.5 – 5.5 years. During the upcoming months, WIDA Early Years will be offering a four-month training of trainers program for the Minnesota early care and education community. We will also engage in additional needs assessment and planning activities with our partners in Minnesota.

### *First WIDA Early Years Leadership Coaching Started*

The first-ever twelve-month Leadership Coaching program started on August 29 with a four-day coaching institute in Madison, WI. The first cohort of coaches is from Nevada. Guided by WIDA facilitators, the coaches will work with one or two early care and education programs in their state over the course of the academic year. The WIDA Early Years Leadership Coaching program aims to build systems and structures that support culturally and linguistically responsive instruction and care for young dual language learners and their families.

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## SEA Policy Recommendations Survey

We are receiving good feedback from the surveys submitted so far. Remember to submit one survey per state. The deadline to submit completed surveys is *September 16*. This allows us time to compile and share the results with the consortium by September 23.

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## WIDA 2016 National Conference

The WIDA 2016 National Conference takes place October 12–15, 2016 in Philadelphia. We look forward to seeing SEAs and educators from across the consortium.

## September Featured Educator

Congratulations to Mary Lou Donahoe. She is the September Featured Educator. Mary Lou works to provide effective and culturally relevant instruction for her students in New Hampshire.  
[Read more.](#)

## Fall 2017 Academy Location

WIDA Professional Learning is looking for a location for our Fall 2017 Formative Language Assessment Academy. WIDA Academies are open-enrollment learning opportunities that allow K-12 educators to further explore WIDA's products and resources, supporting their implementation of the WIDA ELD Standards. If you have a large number of educators in your state interested in this Formative Language Assessment, please contact Jen Aleckson at [jaleckson@wisc.edu](mailto:jaleckson@wisc.edu) to discuss location possibilities.

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## WIDA CLIMBS Training-of-Trainers

The 2016 WIDA CLIMBS ToT Institute took place July 12-14 in Madison, WI. In total, 34 educators attended the event and represented 11 consortium states and 3 countries. The CLIMBS Course is a professional learning curriculum designed to introduce participants to the use of research-based approaches and WIDA resources to support ELL students in their classrooms by:

- providing a space in which educators can collaborate on classroom instruction and assessment for ELLs,
- helping educators integrate content and language standards, and
- acquainting educators with research-based practices that support the learning of ELLs.

The CLIMBS Training-of-Trainers Institute is offered yearly. Please check [www.wida.us/climbs](http://www.wida.us/climbs) for updates on the 2017 Institute.

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## National Policy Subcommittee Update

The WIDA National Policy Subcommittee will meet via WebEx on Wednesday, September 21st to kick-off the new year. The focus of the meeting will be on (1) suggestions for new policy initiatives to draft a response from WIDA, (2) discuss the current negotiated rulemaking (NPRM) provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and (3) discuss WIDA's current research that may have policy implications. Updates from their work will be shared with consortium members in upcoming WIDA Wednesdays.

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## News from the WIDA Store

Welcome back to school! The new [WIDA Can Do Descriptors - Key Uses Edition](#) were released this spring, and offer all new examples based on the four key uses of language. Stay tuned because laminated posters for these new Can Dos are coming soon.

## Standards Setting Update

WIDA and the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) are currently drafting a report on the process and outcome from the standards setting events. The report will be shared with all consortium members sometime in October.

## Follow WIDA on Social Media



## Questions? Comments?

Please contact your State Relations Specialist if you have questions about information shared in the SEA Bulletin.



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