



## ASSESSMENT BUREAU NEWSLETTER

For questions on newsletter content, please email: [ped.assessment@state.nm.us](mailto:ped.assessment@state.nm.us).  
Past newsletters are archived on the [DTC page of the PED website](#).

November 19, 2020

### WIDA Facilitator Toolkit Updates for 2020-21

WIDA has updated the Facilitator Toolkit for SEAs and LEAs to use in local training for ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Screener. The update includes the most commonly requested assessment training slides, and can be easily integrated into existing presentations to support local training. The slides are available to download in the WIDA Secure Portal, by navigating to the [Facilitator Toolkit Training Materials](#) tile:

- ACCESS Online Test Administrator Training
- ACCESS Paper Test Administrator Training
- ACCESS Test Coordinator Training
- Alternate ACCESS Training
- Kindergarten ACCESS Training
- Screener Online Training
- Screener Paper Training

### WIDA Screener for Kindergarten Webpage Now Available

Learn about WIDA Screener for Kindergarten in the months before the test launches on **March 30, 2021**. The new [WIDA Screener for Kindergarten](#) webpage is home to the information you need to know about the test now: key features, test administration times, and scoring. You'll also find a video excerpt of a sample test administration and the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten.

### Reminder: New Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs Q&A Webinar

Please join WIDA to learn about the following topics:

- **Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators** Tuesday, November 17, 1:00pm-2:00pm CT

More information and login details can be found on the [WIDA Q&A Webinar Schedule](#) or on the [Secure Portal Download Library](#).

The NM Parent Portal support material is posted to the Parent Portal Resource Page on the Help and Support site. Demo logins for teachers will be available when the portal is live on 11/17/2020.

### Assessment Literacy Regional Trainings

PED is also working in partnership with Cognia to provide professional learning opportunities designed to help educators better understand the New Mexico Balanced Assessment System as well as how to use assessment resources to better leverage classroom decision making. For the remainder of this semester as well as the beginning of the Spring, educators can participate in the webinar series [Increasing Assessment Literacy: A Springboard for New Mexico Educators](#), which will be conducted via REC regions. Interested teachers or administrators should use the corresponding [registration link](#) that matches their district location.

### NM-MSSA Writing Cognitive Lab Recruitment

Cognia will conduct cognitive labs on behalf of the New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) to evaluate the design and accessibility of writing prompts for the New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (NM-MSSA). Cognitive labs provide an opportunity for students to think out loud as they prepare to respond to these new writing prompts, to help us evaluate design features that may aid or hinder students as they plan and execute their writing.

PED is using Canvas to facilitate participation for teachers, whose DTC's recommend their participation, to learn about the purpose of a cognitive lab as part of developing a large-scale assessment like the NM-MSSA and be provided with background information and resources to successfully facilitate their students in grades, 4, 6, and 8 to participate in the NM-MSSA Writing Prompt Cognitive Labs Study. Upon completion educators will obtain a badge that is recognized by PED as evidence of staff elected professional development as part of an educator's PDP and Domain IV criteria of Elevate NM.

[Enroll in the NM-MSSA Writing Prompt Cognitive Labs Study in Canvas](#)