

Dear Colleagues in Education:

Below is a invitation for your review.

Please review the text below and respond to Jim Bauman at jim@cal.org if your district is interested in participating.

As you may know, ACCESS for ELLs will replace a third of its items every year and that all of these new items must be field tested. The pool of new items to be included in Form 102 for the 2007 administration is nearing completion and has to be field tested this year during the current ACCESS administration.

To share this burden equitably between the states, we're asking each of you to identify some mid to large districts in your state (>400 ELLs) that can serve as field test sites. In each of these districts, we would like the district test coordinator or Title III coordinator to identify schools in which there are 30 or more students in each grade level cluster the school serves. When test booklets arrive at the district office (around mid February), the test coordinator will arrange to have the booklets distributed to these schools during the period they will be testing students with ACCESS.

To keep the burden on individual students to a minimum, we are recommending that an individual student be administered only 1 field test booklet—either a reading, listening, or writing booklet—so that no more than 15 minutes on average will be added to the child's testing. The easiest way logistically to accomplish this is to identify different schools in which the reading, listening, and writing field tests can be administered, respectively. Essentially, this will mean that within a single grade cluster, the test coordinator will have to find 2 to 3 test sessions in which to administer the field test booklets designated for that school, assuming an average of 10-15 students per session.

We will make further details available for you and the district coordinators at a later point, but I wanted to send you this information now in order to get the district identification process started. The attached spreadsheet gives you a breakdown of how many districts we are looking for in each WIDA state.

State No. of Field Test Districts

AL	6
DC	1
DE	2
GA	6
IL	8
ME	0
NH	2

NJ	6
OK	4
RI	2
VT	1
WI	4

Please let me know as soon as you can if this works for you. I particularly would like to hear from the states that are testing early to see what problems the field test schedule may cause and if we have to make any adjustments to the allocations.

Many thanks for your continued interest and involvement in the test development effort. It goes far to making ACCESS for ELLs such a rewarding experience for all of us directly involved with the test's development.

Jim

Jim Bauman, PhD
Center for Applied Linguistics
Program Manager, WIDA test Development
4646 40th St NW
Washington, DC 22204
202-355-1576
jim@cal.org