



World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment
Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1025 West Johnson Street, MD #23
Madison, WI 53706

FROM: TIMOTHY J. BOALS, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WIDA CONSORTIUM
TO: WIDA CONSORTIUM SEAs, LEAs, and Educators
DATE: MAY 2, 2013
RE: ACCESS for ELLs Kindergarten Scoring Irregularity

About a week ago, WIDA received an inquiry regarding the accuracy of certain scores reported on score reports for the ACCESS for ELLs assessment. WIDA takes the integrity of scores very seriously and immediately started investigating this issue.

The investigation included a review of the procedures used in producing the equating tables for grades K-12, along with the resulting tables. We also compared the distribution of students in the equating sample over the past three years with respect to scale scores. Furthermore, we analyzed the scale score distribution on this year's test for students in states that have already completed testing and compared it to previous years' results. Finally, processing, scoring, and scanning procedures used to obtain data from test booklets were checked as well. This was in addition to the steps that are taken as part of annual quality control visits at our vendors each April.

Unfortunately, we discovered an isolated issue with respect to Grade K scores earlier today. This issue was caused by an incorrect reference table that should not have been supplied to MetriTech by the organization that conducts the psychometric work for ACCESS. Based on the information we currently have, we continue to believe that scores for Grades 1-12 have been reported correctly. However, we will continue to check the accuracy of the scores and provide an update on Monday, May 6.

WIDA sincerely apologizes for this error. All districts will be provided with re-issued Kindergarten score reports at no charge. Districts may obtain corrected electronic data files by contacting MetriTech customer service at 1-800-747-4868. District data files will be available no later than end of business on May 6. Corrected paper Kindergarten score reports will be shipped as soon as possible, but no later than May 16, 2013.