

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Federal Program Directors
ESEA Title III MLP Coordinators
PowerSchool IT Contacts
District Test Coordinator – ELL
Report Card/Accountability Coordinators

FROM: Jewell Stanley
Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability

DATE: May 13, 2026

RE: Multilingual Learners (MLs) Who Take WIDA ACCESS - WIDA Standard Setting Update

During the testing window of January 21–March 6, 2026, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) administered the new WIDA ACCESS assessment to all eligible multilingual learners (MLs).

Preliminary 2026 WIDA ACCESS scores will be available electronically on May 14, 2026, with printed score reports arriving in LEAs on May 28-29, 2026. These preliminary proficiency levels should be used as in previous administrations to determine ML status, including but not limited to reclassification decisions, Multilingual Learner Program (MLP) services, language accommodations, and parent notification for the 2026–2027 school year. LEAs should continue to follow all current procedures.

For additional guidance on interpreting score reports, please consult the [WIDA ACCESS Scores and Reports](#) webpage.

WIDA will conduct a standard setting in July 2026. Following this process, states will receive final scores with an anticipated release around October 2026. At that time, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) will issue an additional memorandum with guidance for LEAs on the next steps for utilizing the updated score reports.

Please ensure the use of the most current South Carolina English Language Proficiency Codes for the Title III/Multilingual Learner Program (MLP), available on the [ESEA, Title III, Part A / Multilingual Learner Program](#) webpage under the PowerSchool drop-down.

May 13, 2026

For questions, please contact the SCDE Title III/Multilingual Learner Program (MLP) team at TitleIIIMLP@ed.sc.gov. For questions related to ELP assessment administration, please contact Dr. Meghan Walters-Branham at mgwalters@ed.sc.gov.