



## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT: RECLASSIFICATION METHODOLOGY SY2024 & SY2025**

### **Background**

To fulfill federal (ESSA Section 1111(b)(2)(G)(i); 3116(b)(2)(A); CFR §200. (a)(1)) and state requirements (Idaho Code 33-1617; 08.02.03.111; 08.02.03.112), Idaho districts administer an annual English language proficiency (ELP) assessment to *all* identified English learners. English learners who meet the Idaho Alternate Assessment participation criteria, complete WIDA Alternate ACCESS. The first operational administration of WIDA Alternate ACCESS, aligned to the WIDA’s 2020 Standards Framework and WIDA’s new Alt. Proficiency Level Descriptors, was administered between January 29 and March 8, 2024. The new test (WIDA Alternate ACCESS) is more rigorous and reflects an increase in the academic language expectations associated to each Alternate English language proficiency level.

### **Reclassification Methodology SY2024**

An important part of the test design process is to establish the scale score thresholds (score cuts) that differentiate the new performance levels (proficiency levels): PL1 – Entering, PL2 – Emerging, PL3 – Developing, PL4 – Expanding, PL5 - Bridging. This step in the test design process typically happens after the first operational test and is known as standard setting. WIDA and the Center for Applied Linguistics will be holding the standard setting event for WIDA Alternate ACCESS between July 16 and 19, 2024.

Idaho will not know the specific scale score cuts that differentiate the newly established alternate English proficiency levels until the standard setting event concludes. Consequently, this timeline does not give sufficient time for the Idaho State Board of Education to review, propose, and collect public comments to decide to approve the newly established scale score cuts, prior to the start of the 2025 school year. Furthermore, the 2024 WIDA Alternate ACCESS Individual Score Reports will not be available until September 13, 2024.

To address reclassification in 2024, the Idaho Department of Education (the Department) will use equipercenile equating (concordance) to relate student scale scores from the new WIDA Alternate ACCESS test to the previous Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test form. This will take place during July 2024. This approach will identify individual Alt. Proficiency level (A1, A2, A3, P1, P2, P3) the department will use to make reclassification determinations. A composite overall alternate English proficiency level (PL) of P2 will remain as the 2024 reclassification criteria and will be used to exit a student from a district’s language instruction educational program.

## Concordance Table Business Rules

To reflect the increase in rigor on the newly released test, the new WIDA Alt. ACCESS scale score range has increased by thirty points (910-960 OLD / 900-980 NEW). Due to the scale change and because the Department will make use of a concordance for reclassification purposes for SY2024, the Department has established business rules that will be applied to identify a comparable scale score when there are instances of *one-to-many* and/or *many-to-one* scale score associations.

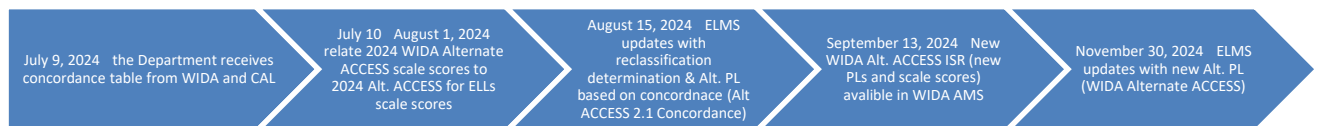
### *One-to-Many Associations*

When there are instances of *one-to-many* scale score associations that relate to two alternate English proficiency levels (2023), the Department will assign the higher of the two proficiency levels as the child's performance score.

### *Many-to-One Associations*

When there are instances of *many-to-one* associations that relate to only one alternate English proficiency levels, the Department will assign the lowest obtainable WIDA Alternate ACCESS (2024) scale score that associates with a 2023 Alternate English Proficiency Level.

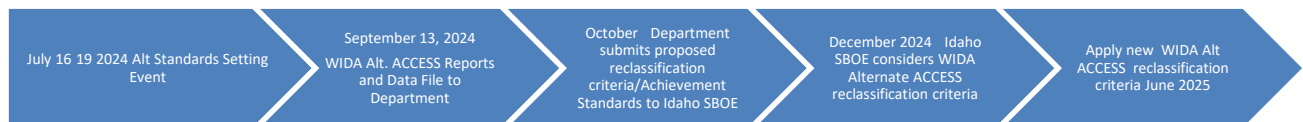
### Timeline:



## Reclassification Methodology SY2025

During fall 2024, the Department will employ the same concordance to identify a relatable WIDA Alternate ACCESS proficiency level that is linked to the previously established P2 (Emerging) Alternate proficiency level. The Department plans to propose the adoption of the new Alternate English proficiency levels and Achievement Standards to the Idaho State Board of Education as the reclassification criteria moving forward. The Department plans to evaluate the newly established reclassification criteria (achievement standard cut scores) once two administrations of WIDA Alternate ACCESS have been administered.

### Timeline:



**Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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