



#094-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #094-21

DATE: April 9, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Screening Tools for Identifying Kindergarten English Learners**

The purpose of this Superintendent's Memo is to communicate standardized entrance procedures for English Learner (EL) identification of students enrolling in Kindergarten as required under the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)*.

Beginning in fall 2022, the Kindergarten W-APT screening tool will no longer be supported by WIDA. WIDA recommends that school divisions adopt the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten as scores on this screener are aligned on the same score scale as the Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLS® English Language Proficiency assessment.

In response to this recommendation, Virginia will discontinue the use of the Kindergarten W-APT screening tool in the 2022-2023 school year. For the 2021-2022 school year, divisions are permitted to continue to use the Kindergarten W-APT screening tool.

Effective July 1, 2021, school divisions may select from the following WIDA screening tools for identifying ELs in Kindergarten and the first semester of first grade:

- WIDA Screener for Kindergarten - Paper
- Kindergarten MODEL - Paper
- Kindergarten W-APT - Paper

The Virginia Department of Education will offer virtual training on the administration and scoring of the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten in May 2021. Information about this training will be provided as session details are finalized.

For more information

If you have questions, please contact student assessment staff at Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2102.

JFL/SLR/as