

# Transition to WIDA Standards and Assessments

LI SIG ELL Directors Meeting  
January 9, 2012

Massachusetts Department of  
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION



# Spring 2012 MEPA

- ★ Principals order materials online: January 9-20
- ★ Receive test materials: February 27
- ★ Testing window:
  - ★ Administer MELA-O: Feb. 13-March 16
  - ★ Administer MEPA-R/W:
    - March 5–16 (paper-and-pencil)
    - February 27–March 16 (online)

**Please note:** New for 2012, in order to be counted as participants in the accountability system, ELLs must take **MEPA** (unless not required to participate because deaf, accommodation unavailable, or alternately assessed), and **MCAS** ([www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/participation/lep.pdf](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/participation/lep.pdf)).



# Under the schedule proposed by the Commissioner ...

- ★ MEPA-R/W and MELA-O will be administered for the final time in Spring 2012.
  - Contract with Measured Progress ends Sept. 30, 2012
- ★ ELPBOs will sunset in 2011-2012; WIDA standards implementation will begin in 2012-2013.
- ★ “ACCESS for ELLs” tests will be administered for the first time in Jan.-Feb. 2013.



# What is WIDA?

World-Class Instructional Design & Assessment  
WIDA.us

- ★ Consortium of 27 states
- ★ English language development **standards** and **assessments** supporting academic language development for ELLs
- ★ WIDA will support professional development, technical assistance, and other resources.



# Rationale for Transitioning to New English Language Proficiency Standards and Assessments

- ★ All Massachusetts students, including ELLs, will transition to the 2011 Massachusetts ELA and Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks by 2012–2013.
- ★ ELPBOs are outdated.
  - Aligned to 2001 ELA frameworks
  - Not aligned to other content area frameworks
  - Aligned to prior MEPA performance level descriptors
- ★ Title III requires states to align English-language proficiency (ELP) standards with current standards for *all* content areas, not just English language arts.



# What We Gain...

- ★ Alignment with the Common Core State Standards (2011 MA frameworks) for *all* students
- ★ Addresses persistent MCAS achievement gap in all subjects, through emphasis on academic language
- ★ WIDA model shows promise for increasing movement of ELLs to English proficiency
- ★ Access to national network of experts
- ★ Somewhat less testing time
- ★ Comparability of results with 27 other states



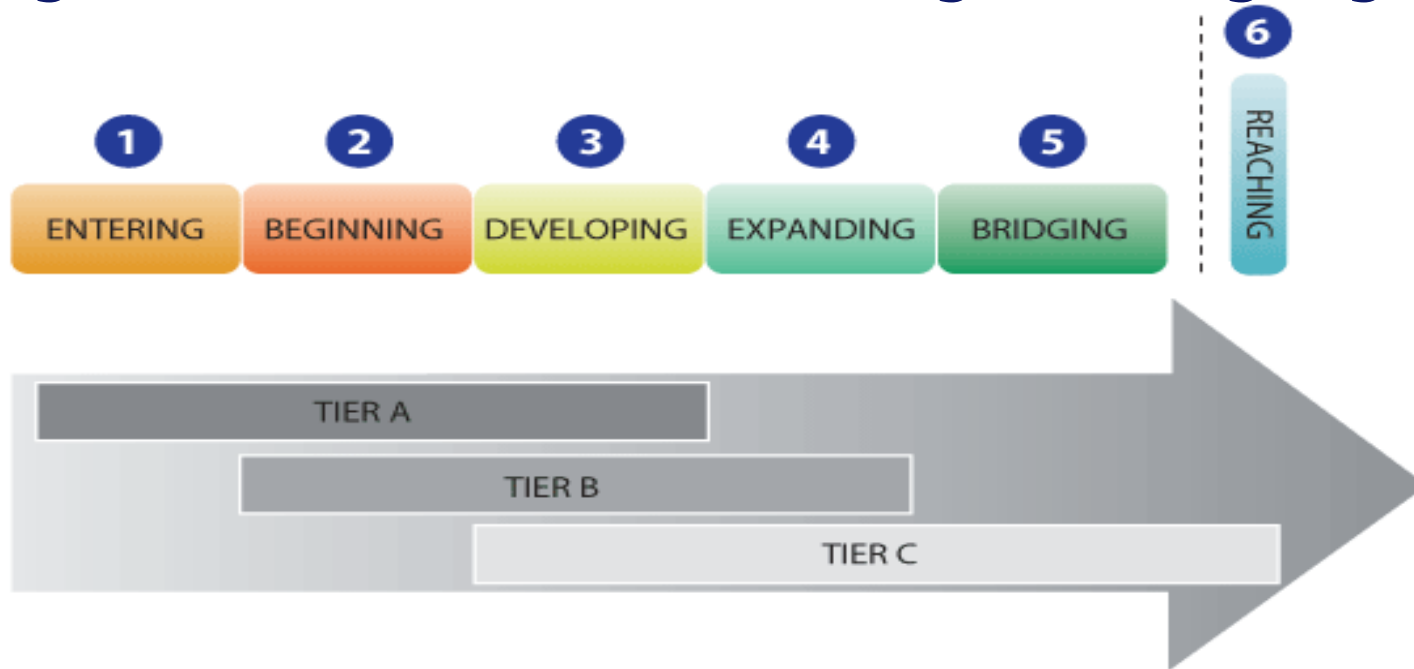
# ACCESS for ELLs tests

- ★ ACCESS assesses Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking based on 5 overarching WIDA standards:
  1. Learning Social and Instructional language
  2. Learning the Language of Language Arts
  3. Learning the Language of Mathematics
  4. Learning the Language of Science
  5. Learning the Language of Social Studies



# ACCESS for ELLs tests (continued...)

- ★ There are five grade-span tests: K, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12
- ★ In grades 1-12, students will take one of three tiers, targeted to each student's range of language skills.



- ★ Results are reported at six performance levels.





# ACCESS for ELLS

Approximate Testing Times: Grades 1-12

- ★ **Reading:** 35-40 minutes
  - ★ **Writing:** 20-60 minutes
  - ★ **Listening:** 20-25 minutes
  - ★ **Speaking:** Up to 15 minutes, individually administered
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- ★ Reading, Writing, and Listening portions of the test will be contractor-scored.
  - ★ Speaking portion is locally-scored.
  - ★ Kindergarten test is administered individually (15-50 minutes) and scored locally by test administrator.



# ACCESS: Additional Information

- ★ Results will be reported in late April-early May.
- ★ Online training available for test administrators in fall 2012.
- ★ No fall baseline tests.
- ★ Optional WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (**W-APT**) available (free) to screen new students and determine appropriate test tier.
- ★ Previous scores available for students entering MA from other WIDA states.



# What We Lose...

- ★ Our own “home-grown” standards (ELPBOs)
  - Perception that ELPBOs were the standards for ELLs
- ★ Control over the final product (i.e., tests)
  - No ADCs
- ★ MELA-O as part of statewide assessment
- ★ Online MEPA, after 2012
  - Online ACCESS for ELLs test is coming in 2015.



# WIDA States

- ★ Alabama
- ★ Alaska
- ★ Delaware
- ★ District of Columbia
- ★ Georgia
- ★ Hawaii
- ★ Illinois
- ★ Kentucky
- ★ Maine
- ★ Maryland
- ★ Minnesota
- ★ Mississippi
- ★ Missouri
- ★ Montana
- ★ New Hampshire
- ★ New Jersey
- ★ New Mexico
- ★ North Carolina
- ★ North Dakota
- ★ Oklahoma
- ★ Pennsylvania
- ★ Rhode Island
- ★ South Dakota
- ★ Vermont
- ★ Virginia
- ★ Wisconsin
- ★ Wyoming

