



Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

1500 K Street, NW., Suite 900

Washington, D.C. 20005

December 16, 2020

Dear Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law:

We appreciate receiving your letter and are responding to your concerns in this reply. As an organization committed to equity and excellence for multilingual learners and their families, we deeply support the principle that safety should be paramount this year. Below are a few points for you to consider:

1. WIDA is not the entity that decides whether testing is delayed or cancelled. States are the organizations that make those decisions, in consultation with local schools, many of which are meeting face-to-face with safety procedures in place.
2. WIDA, at the request of our state partners, has issued recommendations for safe testing during this period. Our guidance is based on CDC suggestions and safe practices that we learned from our members states who administered ACCESS during the pandemic earlier this year.
3. WIDA considered the issue of remote testing with our state partners this past summer, and for a number of compelling reasons, states asked us not to move forward with it. Many vendors of other district and school administered assessments have opted to allow for remote testing, but they are not subject to the same validity, reliability and fairness requirements that the ACCESS test is.
4. WIDA is prepared to work with States regarding any requests to extend state testing windows to address safety concerns, including extending testing into the summer of 2021.

I hope this letter helps you to better understand our role at WIDA and a few of the many things we have done thus far. We absolutely encourage our states to do their utmost to ensure that tests are safely administered. WIDA is prepared to maintain flexibility to delay testing windows as needed.

Sincerely,

Tim Boals, PhD

WIDA Founder and Director