

What's Changing for 2026-27

District and school readiness briefing

Purpose

Use this handout to identify local decisions, technology updates, and student preparation needed for ACCESS, Screener, MODEL, and WIDA AMS.

Four changes that matter most

New online accommodations	Assistive Technology (AT) and Speech-to-Text (STT) require advance selection in WIDA AMS.
Student-controlled audio	Students select Play. Repeat Item Audio (RA) remains a separately assigned accommodation.
Simpler response formats	Listening and Reading replace drag-and-drop items with multiple-choice items.
Updated technology	DRC INSIGHT Secure Application version 17 and Central Office Services version 10 are required.

Accommodation planning

- Confirm which students need AT, STT, or RA and document routine classroom use.
- Select AT or STT in WIDA AMS before the student logs in.
- AT examples include AAC, voice access, head tracking, and eye-gaze devices.
- STT converts speech into written text. Windows and Chromebook support STT for 2026-27.
- RA limits: Listening, one repeat; Reading, not applicable; Speaking and Writing, unlimited.

Local action

Coordinate accommodation decisions with special education, multilingual learner, classroom, and technology staff before testing begins.

Student testing experience

Audio controls

- Play: Students select Play on every online screen. Audio no longer starts automatically.
- Repeat: Only students assigned RA will see a Repeat button.
- Paper: Manual Control of Item Audio applies only to ACCESS Paper and Screener Paper.

Speaking response sequence

1 Check	2 Prepare	3 Record	4 Finish
Microphone check includes audio and visual indicators.	Students may pause before selecting Record.	Record changes to Stop. A green timer confirms recording.	A red stop sign fills during the final 10 seconds.

Important: Students still have one opportunity to record each Speaking response. Use updated demos and practice so students recognize the Record/Stop sequence.

Accessibility and interface updates

- Play and Repeat controls use transparent backgrounds with black text.
- The blue header bar is removed so screen titles respond to color preferences.
- Improved contrast and other cues reduce reliance on color alone.
- Students using assistive technology should encounter simpler controls and more predictable response methods.

Resource updates

ACCESS	Screener
• Parent score flyers better match the Individual Student Report. • Parent letters use plainer language. • Updated online demos and practice return in September 2026.	• Writing prompts move to the Screener Scoring application in WIDA AMS. • Demos and practice reflect accessibility changes. • Large Print becomes available for paper and kindergarten screeners.

Program and technology readiness

ACCESS Paper and MODEL Online

- ACCESS Paper Listening and Speaking audio will stream through WIDA AMS.
- Audio CDs remain available by additional materials order. Braille kits continue to include CDs.
- MODEL Online completed-domain scores appear sooner.
- Districts may administer fewer than four MODEL domains for local needs, priorities, or progress monitoring.
- MODEL login uses a Quick ID with a four-digit PIN or QR code. Students can resume without administrator reseating.

Technology team priorities

Student imports	Use the 2026-27 student import file layout.
Testing devices	Update DRC INSIGHT Secure Application to version 17.
Central Office Services	Update COS to version 10. Clear the installer cache if auto-update fails.
System requirements	Review Technology Downloads in WIDA AMS. Windows 10 is not supported beginning with INSIGHT v17.

WIDA AMS changes

- Student export has no export limit.
- Reporting Services retains the current and prior two years of reports. Save reports annually.
- Test ticket printing supports up to 12 tickets per page, orientation choices, and optional instructions or rosters.
- Test Management moves from horizontal tabs to a collapsible vertical menu.

Local preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify students who need AT, STT, or RA.
- ☐ Update WIDA AMS processes, student imports, and test-ticket procedures.
- ☐ Coordinate INSIGHT v17 and COS v10 installation with technology staff.
- ☐ Plan student practice after updated ACCESS resources return in September.
- ☐ Download reports annually and retain them in the district data repository.