The WIDA consortium has created a comprehensive assessment system anchored in the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards. For DLL/ELLs new to the U.S. school system or to a particular district, it may be necessary to have an initial measure of the student’s English language proficiency in order to determine if the student is in need of English language instructions services, and if so, at what level. All scoring of the W-APT is completed on site by the test administrator. The W-APT is semi-secure and available for use at any time.

The W-APT for Pre-K 4 has two main purposes:

- To identify students who may be candidates for English as a Second Language (ESL) and/or bilingual services; and
- To determine the academic English language proficiency level of students new to a school or to the US school system in order to determine appropriate levels and amounts of instructional level.

The W-APT for Pre-K assesses only the Listening and Speaking components, which are combined in one test.

The W-APT is administered at the end of the Pre-K 4 year and it is considered as only one element in the decision making process.