

November 29, 2007 meeting at the IRC

I. Introductions

II. Testing update given by Barry and Robin

- Choose Pearson or Quest Star to order materials
- Ordering deadline 12/7
- H.S. use same company as ACT materials
- Info on ordering is not posted yet, maybe it will come out on 12/30
- People wanted to know who's job is it to disseminate the information
- It was suggested that we express our "anger" to ISBE because they are not aware of our frustration, but that was not the message we received on Nov. 9th
- The bilingual community is trying to figure out how to be productive and how to find a solution for our kids
- The question was how much money is being allocated for this effort to prevent the schools in Illinois from failing
- Students taking ACCESS do not take the writing on ISAT
- AYP/AMAO Policy Recommendations from IELLAAC were distributed
- Teachers and administrators in some districts are being informed, but we need to be clear that the recommendations are just that
- Meeting next week Friday for the State Testing Review Committee to approve the accommodations

III. Update on RFSP

- RFSP suppose to go out in Spring
- It's far from being sent out so we can still give our input
- RFSP 1 and 2 are being combined
- There is no rough draft for the 2nd RFSP
- RFSP, so far, does not include anything about languages other than English, so that has to be included
- How do we inform the committee about the frameworks for ELLs that the state has to assess
- People want a test that has plain English, others want native language assessed
- Robin indicated we have the opportunity to give our input
- We want the vendors to come up with the most cost effective solution, what are the parameters, we need to develop a list or set of parameters to include in the RFP, so the vendors know what we are looking for
- There are non negotiable parameters such as including the Illinois State Standards

IV. RFSP Option A

- Option A: work with Pearson to develop the Spanish version of ISAT
- Have an RFP for plain English and accommodations

- Part of Option A: Can we negotiate with the current ISAT vendors to give us a Spanish, Arabic, and Polish version side by side for ISAT, so the RFP can be separate to convert the ISAT items into plain English for students that speak other languages and we would accomplish our table below
- Option A to be implemented for 2008-2009
- We want to be part of the ISAT “package” so when ISAT gets changed we are not trying to catch up again
- Test should be correlated to ACCESS and other ELL students performance levels

V. RFSP Recommendations Option B

- Create a comprehensible academic achievement test for ELL linked to ISAT/PSAE with a parallel Spanish version; with bilingual glossaries for major languages
- Test should be correlated to ACCESS and other ELL students performance levels

VI. Recommendations for content items of assessment

- Visuals / Graphic support
- Not everything should be multiple choice format- use variety
- Avoid “confusing” choices like all of the above, none of the above
- Use the least confusing test

VII. High School options

- Side by side will not work for H.S.
- There is no option A equivalent at the H.S. level because of ACT
- Could ACT become optional?
- Option B seems more practical for PSAE
- Option C could be the development of an assessment for ELL aligned to the PSAE with accommodations

Other comments and information

In Illinois, we need to get universities involved

We discussed what other states are doing, such as N.Y, California

Native Language options must be equivalent to ISAT

Instructions could possibly be in different languages

190,000 ELLs in Illinois

The impact of this crisis on program structure and program implementation

What can we do to protect good bilingual programs?

We want students to have access to the content through either language

In Illinois we don't have an assessment system

We want ISBE to consider our suggestions not just place the minutes in a file because we have put in a lot of work and effort into the options provided.

The idea is to have options for the schools

This is the ELL ISAT options

Who	What	Language of Assessment	Notes		
TPI	1. Academic language in LA, Math and Science	"Plain English"	1. Correlation with ACCESS levels 2. with additional accommodations		
TBE	1 + 2		"side by side" option same as above		
Dual Language	1 or 2 2. Academic Language in LA, Math & Science	"Target Language" (Spanish??)	Same as above		
ELLs not served			Same as above		