IELLAAC Minutes 12-06-2012
Oak Brook Marriott Resort

Introductions

Reading of minutes from the September meeting. The minutes were approved with amendments.

Updates

- Alternate ACCESS: There have been few calls even though 2013 is the first year. There have been orders for about 1000 sets of materials. It seems to be on track.
- ASSETS: It’s the consortium developing ACCESS 2.0. Joint meeting was held with WIDA, in VA, on November 14 & 15. Foundational documents are being finalized. There are five subcommittees: Technology, Accommodations, EL Definitions, Interim Assessment, Reporting. Two static forms of the current ACCESS will be maintained. The fate of WAPT will be announced later. The development timeline was provided in a handout. It’s projected to be fully operational by 2015-16.

Committee members discussed several questions regarding new ACCESS test.

- Illinois has an Educator-Leader Cadre for PARCC being lead by Linda Reabe. Nothing else is known at this time.

Old Business

Program Delivery Typology has been a concern of the committee. WIDA is struggling with the same thing. It might be difficult to revise our system if WIDA does not also. The group spent some time talking about it, and decided to involve IACBE and DELL in a joint subcommittee.

The committee passed the following motion.

The Illinois ELL Assessment Advisory Committee respectfully recommends that a joint sub-committee be formed between IELLAAC and IACBE to study and propose clear definitions of program types that are reported in the state’s Student Information System to:

- improve consistency in the way they are reported.
- properly distinguish between program models and delivery.
- garner useful data for study.

A list of essential questions was compiled at the September meeting to be brought up at the Program Directors’ Conference. Members reported that they were discussed, and most of those concerns were in the process of being addressed.
New Business
The committee reviewed some testing data showing the performance of recently proficiency and former ELLs. There was considerable discussion by the group. To answer whether the current proficiency criteria is sufficient, some additional analyses would be of interest.

A member asked about the status of the Tier C recommendation made by the committee earlier in the year. It was still under consideration by IACBE and ISBE.

The committee would like to have more information about the progress of former ELLs following reclassification. There was discussion about the most appropriate comparison groups to examine. There was a request for data projecting the impact of the new ISAT cut scores on ELLs and how ELLs with high proficiency levels do on ISAT.

It was supposed that any modification of the English proficiency criteria would not take effect until FY14.

The committee then spent considerable time talking about the coming implementation of the PARCC assessment and its impact on ELLs. Comments by a presenter at the Bilingual Conference raised concerns that ELLs were not being given adequate consideration. The committee would like a discussion with ISBE and IACBE on this topic, and passed the following motion.

The Illinois ELL Assessment Advisory Committee respectfully requests that a joint meeting be convened, at the earliest convenience, between members of IELLAAC, IACBE, and the ISBE Divisions of English Language Learning and Student Assessment to discuss provisions being planned for English Language Learners in the PARCC assessment system.

A member brought up that the state plans to implement a school readiness assessment at Kindergarten (KIDS) which the committee has not yet discussed. Members would like to know more about it, and wonder where it fits into the state picture.

It was then announced that the meeting date set for June 17 had to be reset to June 14.

The meeting then adjourned.

Attendees (in order of sign-in):
Cheryl Wolfel
Gustavo Gonzalez
Laura Hill
Francela Lopez
Jane Montes
Seon Eun
Anna Zuber
Barry Pedersen
Eulalia Valdez
Maria Lozano
Rosemarie Meyer
Melissa K. Wolf
Julie Colgrove
Margo Gottlieb
Judith Yturriago