

Identification and Screening of Potential English Learners 101: An Introduction

Multilingual/Language Development Department

FY26 Annual Statewide Meeting for Administrators
Supporting English Learners

September 17-19, 2025



Federal Legislation and Landmark Cases

Federal Requirements

Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964

- Prohibits denial of equal access to education because of language minority students' limited proficiency in English.

Title VII of the ESEA of 1968: The Bilingual Education Act

- The first federal legislation to recognize the unique needs of English learners and the need for specialized instruction. It established federal funding for the training of bilingual teachers and bilingual programs.

Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974

- Defines denial of equal educational opportunity as “failure by an educational agency to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by students in an instructional program.”

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1975

- Provides for free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation.
- Ensures special education and related services to those children

English learners (ELs) must be able to participate effectively in all programs and content areas.

Landmark Cases

Lau v. Nichols, 414 U.S. 563 (U.S. Supreme Court, 1974)

- Districts must take affirmative steps to overcome educational barriers faced by the non-English speaking students in a district.

Castañeda v. Pickard (648 F.2d 989, U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit, 1981)

- Program for ELs should be:
 - **Theory:** Based on “a sound educational theory”;
 - **Practice:** “Reasonably calculated to implement effectively the educational theory adopted by the school,” with adequate resources and personnel; and
 - **Results:** Evaluated as effective in overcoming language barriers after a trial period.

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202, 102 S. Ct. 2382, 72 L. Ed. 2d 786 (1982)

- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that undocumented children have the same right as U.S. citizens and permanent residents to receive a free public education.

Legislative Update for TBE Programs

Revised: Illinois School Code (105 ILCS5/14C-3)

"Every school-age English learner, not enrolled in existing private school systems, shall be enrolled and participate in the Transitional Bilingual Education program established by the school district in which they reside, according to the classification to which they belong. They shall remain in the program until they have developed sufficient English language skills to succeed in classes conducted entirely in English. An annual examination in oral language (listening and speaking), reading, and writing, as prescribed by the State Board, will be administered to all English learners participating in the TBE program. No school district shall transfer an English learner out of the TBE program unless the student has achieved a score on this examination that, in the State Board's determination, reflects a level of English proficiency appropriate to their grade level."

Amended to remove the obligation to get parental permission for students to continue receiving EL services beyond three years, effective Jan. 1, 2026

Key Changes for Districts on Jan. 1, 2026

More Flexibility for ELs: No more parental permission required to continue services beyond three years.

Streamlined Enrollment/Placement Procedures: No need for separate letters to notify parents of enrollment/placement for students in one to three years of service versus beyond three years.

Streamlined Exit Procedures: No need for separate reclassification letters for students who've achieved proficiency prior to receiving three years of service versus after three years of service.

Ongoing Support for ELs: ELs get the support they need for as long as they need it. Students remain in the EL program until they have reached proficiency on the annual WIDA ACCESS assessment and developed enough English skills to succeed in English-only classrooms.

Transition Period and Implementation

- Districts will have a full school year (2025-2026) to adjust their local procedures and documentation practices.
- The updated requirements will take effect in the 2026-2027 school year.
- Enrollment/placement and reclassification letters on ISBE website will be updated and available for use on Jan. 1, 2026



Agenda

- Timely Identification
- Effective Administration of Home Language Survey
- Screening Potential English Learners
- Notification of Services to Parents
- Annual English Language Development Assessment
- Exit Criteria for Reclassification
- IWAS/Student Information System Review
- Resources

Timely Identification

Home Language Survey in Illinois

The state **requires** the district to collect a Home Language Survey for **every** new student.

- This information is used to indicate if the family and/or the student speak a language other than English at home. In turn, this helps to identify the students who need to be assessed for English language proficiency and may qualify for language services.
- Questions cannot be altered
- Parent/guardian signature and date is required

[Home Language Surveys](#)

Home Language Survey

The state requires the district to collect a Home Language Survey for every new student. This information is used to count the students whose families speak a language other than English at home. It also helps to identify the students who need to be assessed for English language proficiency.

Please answer the questions below and return this survey to your child's school.

Student's Name: _____

1. Is a language other than English spoken in your home?

Yes _____ No _____

Which language? _____

2. Does your child speak a language other than English?

Yes _____ No _____

Which language? _____

If the answer to either question is yes, the law requires the school to assess your child's English language proficiency.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Effective Administration of the Home Language Survey

Step 1

The HLS is completed by the parent/guardian of the student in a language they understand. It is signed and dated.

Step 2

District reviews the responses on the HLS

Step 3

Look in the student's file and/or in SIS to see if the student has been previously screened/tested or has an EL record.

Step 4

District determines next steps based on the following:

- HLS responses
- SIS history
- Initial HLS responses
- Statewide assessments

Home Language Survey Process

Home Language Survey Process

Answer to one or both questions on the HLS is YES and lists a language other than English. Student is a potential EL.

Look in the student's file and/or in SIS to see if the student has been previously screened/tested with WIDA Screener/ACCESS or has an EL record.

If the student is already identified as EL (excluding kindergarten) or has screening/ACCESS scores within the last school year, do not screen.

If the student is not already identified as EL or is entering Kindergarten, screen the student. Unless the ELP screening exemption applies (see slide 21)

Home Language Survey Process

If the answer to both questions on the HLS is NO and a language other than English is not listed. Student may still be a potential EL.

Look in the student's file and/or in SIS to see if the student has been previously screened/tested with WIDA Screener/ACCESS or has an EL record.

If the original HLS has a language other than English and there are no WIDA Screener/ACCESS scores within the last year, screen the student.

If the HLS is the original or matches the original, do not screen the student.

ELP Screening Exceptions

ACCESS for ELLs results for the previous school year are available.

Screening results from within the last 12 months are available.

Exceptions

Student previously demonstrated proficiency on screener or ACCESS for ELLs.

Ill. Admin. Code 228 Section 228.15 (e)(1) (C) -- next slide

ELP Screening Exception: Ill. Admin. Code 228 Section 228.15 (e)(1) (C)

All
criteria
must
be TRUE

For students
eligible to
participate in
statewide
assessments

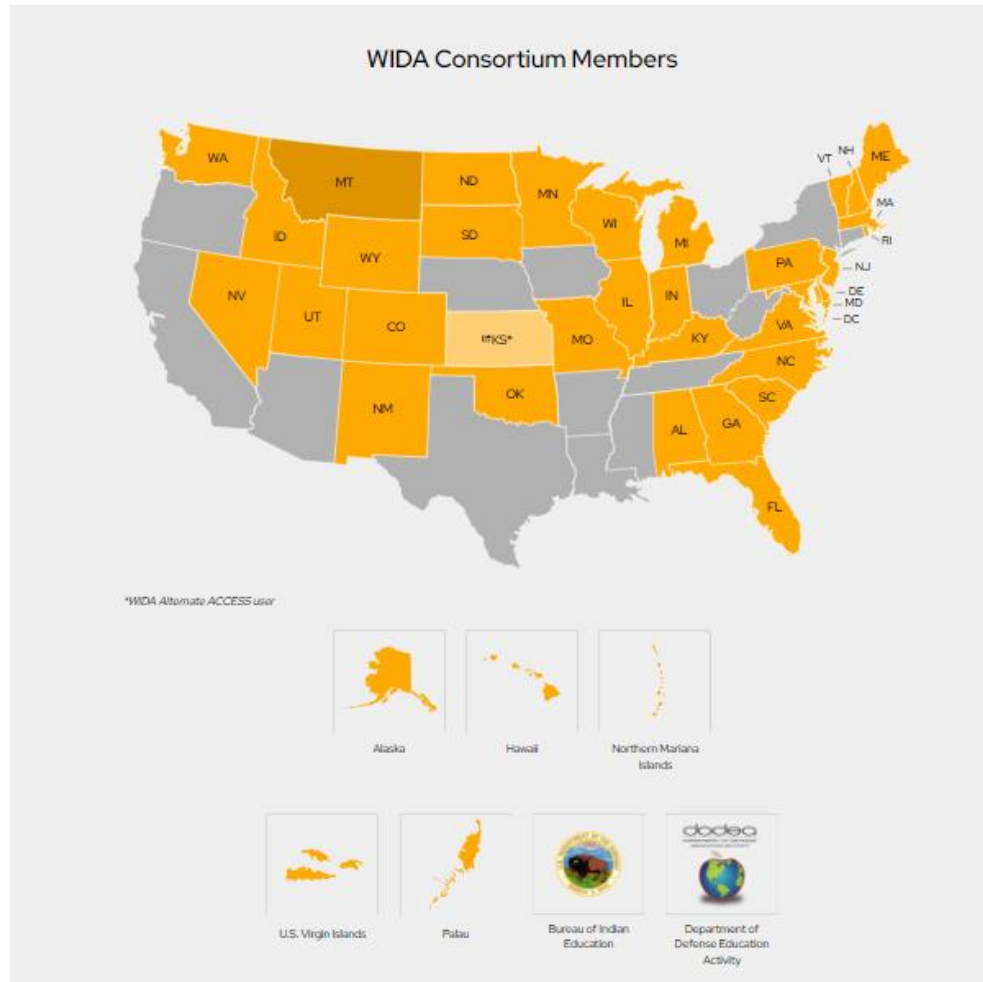
- Resides in home where a language other than English is spoken, **AND**
- The student was not identified as an English learner in the previous district, **AND**
- The student did not receive EL services in the last school year, **AND**
- The student has met state standards in reading and math on the most recent state assessment or on a nationally normed assessment.

Screening Potential English Learners

Preschool English Proficiency Screening

- ❑ **ISBE lists vendors** of established screening instruments for assessing English language proficiency (ELP) in preschool for children ages 3 to 5 on the [ISBE Multilingual Identification webpage](#).
- ❑ **Screening procedures shall at least:**
 - ❑ Consult **family** on child's English language experience.
 - ❑ Be **culturally and linguistically** appropriate.
 - ❑ Be **age and developmentally** appropriate.
 - ❑ Be **research-based**.
 - ❑ Include **multiple observations**.
 - ❑ Use **multiple measures** and methods.
 - ❑ Be conducted by **qualified staff** with background in preschool education and second-language acquisition.

41 WIDA Member States, Three Territories, and Two Federal Agencies



K-12 English Proficiency Screening

Grade	Required Screening	Domains Included	Minimum Score for English Proficiency
Kindergarten semester 1	WIDA Screener for Kindergarten	• Listening • Speaking	5.0 oral composite
Kindergarten semester 2; Grade 1 semester 1	WIDA Screener for Kindergarten	• Listening • Speaking • Reading • Writing	5.0 overall composite
Grade 1 semester 2 – 12th grade	WIDA Screener	• Listening • Speaking • Reading • Writing	

Screening must take place within 30 days of student enrollment in the district.

(IL Admin Code 228.15(e))

Determining Which Screener to Administer

Grade	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12	
Semester	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Grade-Cluster Form	K	1	2-3		4-5		6-8		9-12															

Source: WIDA, *Online Test Administration Manual*

Certified Test Administrators

- Licensed instructional or non-instructional personnel:
 - Must hold a Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations (e.g., transitional bilingual educator).
- Must complete required training from:
 - Vendors' online training.
 - WIDA Screener and/or ACCESS modules.
- District test coordinators may create WIDA and Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) accounts or contact ISBE for first-time coordinators.

Test Administration Requirements

- Most test administrator (TA) training for ACCESS is done online. Training modules are in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#), which requires a user account (see below).
- Test Administrators (TA) must [annually recertify](#) their training for one-to-one ACCESS tests for which the TA uses the speaking or writing rubric to score responses.
 - **Kindergarten ACCESS**
 - **Those who administer Kindergarten ACCESS will need to recertify after September 29, 2025, when the new course is released.**
 - Kindergarten Screener
 - Alternate ACCESS
 - ACCESS Paper mode for Speaking domain
 - WIDA Screener Scoring for Speaking and Writing (Online and Paper)
- Other ACCESS forms should [recertify the training every three years](#).
 - Online ACCESS
 - Paper mode for listening, reading, and writing domains
 - WIDA Screener Administration (Online and Paper)
- Test administrators who do not participate in the ACCESS administration for a year (or more) should recertify their training before resuming.

After the ELP Screening



If a student meets ELP criteria on the screener, EL services/program are not required. The parents should be informed of the screening results.

Notification of Services to Parents

Notification of Placement Letters

- Letter in English **and** the **student's home language** (language listed on HLS).
- Sent within **30 days of beginning of the school year** or within **14 days after enrollment in the program**.

Notification of Placement Letters

- Program type and description
 - Explain how the EL program will **support the student**.
- Expected rate of transition
- Screener/ACCESS scores
- Rate of graduation (high school only)
- Exit requirements (minimum ACCESS score 4.8 overall composite)
- Special Education Statement
- Parent's right to visit the classroom
- **Notification of the right to withdraw** student from the program or choose different EL services, if offered.
 - If the parent refuses services for their child, it **MUST** be organic from the parent/guardian.
 - Student is always placed first.

Annual Testing

ACCESS Testing



WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten

Kindergarten ACCESS is a paper-based test individually administered to kindergarten students in an interactive format.



WIDA ACCESS Online

ACCESS Online is a computer-based, adaptive test that responds to student performance and may be administered in group or individual settings. This assessment is given annually to students in grades 1-12.



WIDA ACCESS Paper

ACCESS Paper is a paper-based, semi-adaptive test that may be administered in group or individual settings.



WIDA Alternate ACCESS

[Alternate ACCESS](#) is a large-print, paper-based test individually administered to students in grades K-12 who are identified as English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Exit Criteria

ACCESS Exit Criteria for Reclassification

- WIDA ACCESS – Minimum composite proficiency score for reclassification is 4.8 overall.
- Student's EL information will be **automatically** updated in the Student Information System (SIS) to last one year.
- Student will be a “Former EL” in SIS report.

Note: Local districts must update their student management platform to reflect the student is no longer EL. If not, student could roll back into EL the next year because the EL indicator was not switched to EL=NO.

IWAS

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS



Illinois State Board of Education
Darren Reisberg, Chairman Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Education

ISBE Administrator

Home

System Listing

Pending Sign Ups

Pending Documents

Change Password

Search

Log Out

[IWAS Training Video](#)

Messages :

3 unread Inbox message(s)

0 unread Archived message(s)

Require Action :

0 Sign-ups pending your approval

112 Documents pending your approval

0 Feedback messages pending review

We have your email address listed as:

If this is NOT correct, [click here](#) to update.

News Items

REMINDER: GATA Will Require Additional Expenditure Report for FY 2021 Grants

Public Act 100-0997, which was enacted on August 20, 2018, made significant changes to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), including the addition of a section that details new expenditure reporting requirements. [More...](#)

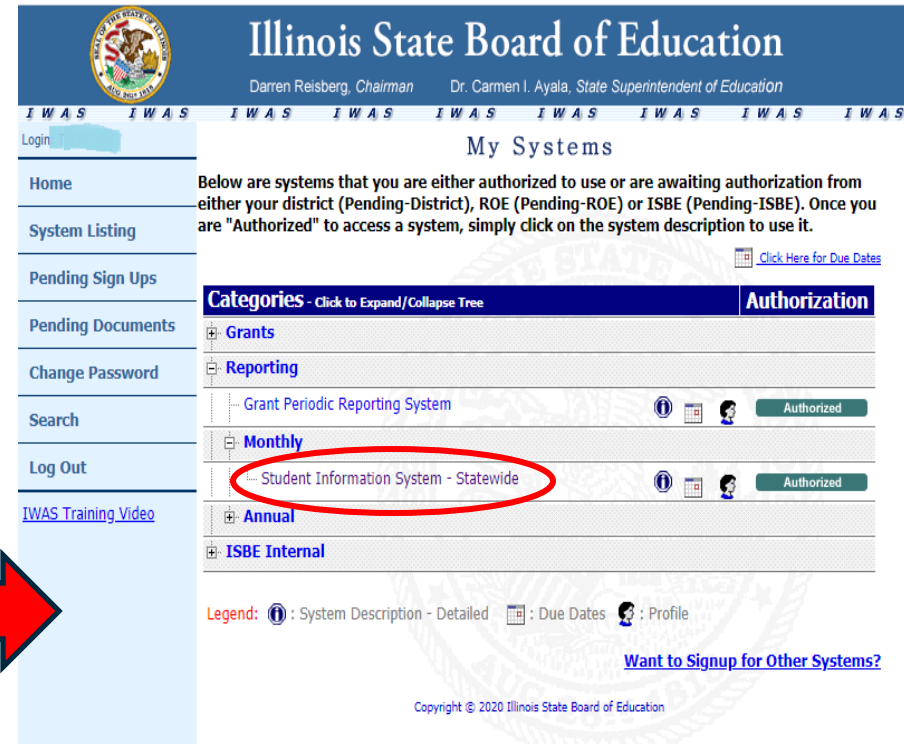
FY20 State Grant Project End Dates Extended to June 30, 2021

Please be advised that all FY20 State grant project end dates are extended to June 30, 2021. We acknowledge that some local education agencies (LEAs) are still in the process of submitting an initial FY20 state grant for some programs. [More...](#)

Changes in EPS/IWAS Administration

EPS changes: (At this time, ISBE cannot accept any faxes for processing) Identify your changes on entity Letterhead, signed by your Administrator. Scan the letterhead and e-mail to EPSchange@isbe.net [More...](#)

Closing a School or Entity



Illinois State Board of Education
Darren Reisberg, Chairman Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Education

My Systems

Below are systems that you are either authorized to use or are awaiting authorization from either your district (Pending-District), ROE (Pending-ROE) or ISBE (Pending-ISBE). Once you are "Authorized" to access a system, simply click on the system description to use it. [Click Here for Due Dates](#)

Categories - Click to Expand/Collapse Tree	Authorization
Grants	
Reporting	
Grant Periodic Reporting System	Authorized
Monthly	
Student Information System - Statewide	Authorized
Annual	
ISBE Internal	

Legend: ⓘ : System Description - Detailed 📅 : Due Dates 👤 : Profile

[Want to Signup for Other Systems?](#)

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Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

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SIS

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SIS Key Dates

Sep 24, 2021	Last day of IAR Testing – Paper (Fall)
Sep 30, 2021	Last Day of DLM-AA Testing (Fall)
Oct 01, 2021	Seal of Biliteracy Application for SY 2022
Oct 08, 2021	Last day of IAR Testing – Online (Fall)
Oct 13, 2021	Primary Test Date for SAT (Fall)
Oct 13, 2021	Accommodated Testing Window for SAT (Fall) - Start Date
Oct 26, 2021	Accommodated Testing Window for SAT (Fall) - End Date

Next SIS Webinar

District Status as of 09/20/2021 01:03 PM

District

☒ Home ☐ Serving

District Metrics

Early Childhood Metrics

Current Collection Completion Status	Required	Complete	Percent
Prenatal	830	53	6%
Birth To Three Student Programs	3863	755	19%
Birth To Three Program Providers	755	423	56%
Birth To Three Caregivers	3863	862	22%
Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Ratings	9837	6618	67%
Early Childhood Student Programs	31874	9851	30%
Early Childhood Program Providers	9592	9482	98%
English Learner (EL)	149638	74216	49%
EL Screener	35903	20258	56%
Homeless	14639	9172	62%
Eligible for Immigrant Student Program	89136	53310	59%
Student Address for NEW IDEA students	188219	186733	99%
Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP)	590	226	38%
Student Discipline	NA	571	NA
504 Plan	NA	9957	NA
Grades 3-12 Missing Final Letter Grade	333543	0	0%

Current Enrollments & Program Indicators

☒ Current Enrollment ☐ EL ☐ IDEA ☐
☐ Homeless ☐ FRL

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

The screenshot displays the SIS (Student Information System) interface for the Illinois State Board of Education. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: Home, Student, Assessment, Adjusted Cohort, Teacher, Early Childhood Transition, Prenatal, **Reports** (circled in red), Batch File Processing, District Data Verification, Seal of Biliteracy Application, and Internal. The 'Reports' section is expanded, showing a list of reports. The 'Bilingual' report is circled in red. Other reports listed include Assessment, Attendance, Demographics and Enrollment, Discipline, Early Learning, Homeless, Individual Student, Nutrition, Physical Restraint and Time Out, Regional Safe School, Special Education, Course Assignments, Student and Teacher Reports, Missing Courses, Summative Designation, State Reporting, Prenatal, and Miscellaneous Reporting.

Illinois State Board of Education

SIS

Reports

Search Reports...

Student ▾

- Assessment ▾
- Attendance ▾
- Bilingual ▾**
- Demographics and Enrollment ▾
- Discipline ▾
- Early Learning ▾
- Homeless ▾
- Individual Student ▾
- Nutrition ▾
- Physical Restraint and Time Out ▾
- Regional Safe School ▾
- Special Education ▾

Course Assignments ▴

- Student and Teacher Reports ▾
- Missing Courses ▾
- Summative Designation ▾
- State Reporting ▾
- Prenatal ▾
- Miscellaneous Reporting ▾

Log Out

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

The screenshot shows the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) IWAS SIS interface. The left sidebar contains a menu with the following items: SIS, Home, Student, Assessment, Adjusted Cohort, Teacher, Early Childhood Transition, Prenatal, Reports (circled in red), Batch File Processing, District Data Verification, Seal of Biliteracy Application, and Internal. The main content area is titled 'Reports' and features a search bar labeled 'Search Reports...'. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Student', 'Assessment', 'Attendance', and 'Bilingual'. The main table lists various reports, with the following items circled in red: 'EL Screener', 'ACCESS Score', and 'Former EL Students Report'. Each report entry includes a 'Summary' and 'Details' link.

Report Name	Summary	Details
EL Screener	Summary	Details
EL	Summary	Details
ACCESS WIDA DRC Site File and Testing Waiver		Details
ACCESS Pre-Id	Summary	Details
ACCESS Assessment Correction	Summary	Details
ACCESS Score	Summary	Details
Student EL History	Summary	Details
Former EL Students Report		Details
Student ACCESS Scores History		Details
Unassigned Test Results		Details
eGMS EL Program Placement and Services	Summary	Details
eGMS Ceiling Calculator Funding Allocations	Summary	Details
eGMS EL Attendance Center Enrollment	Summary	Details
eGMS Ceiling Calculator Funding (2017 and earlier)	Summary	Details
Seal of Biliteracy Application		Details
Seal of Biliteracy Application Statewide	Summary	
Seal of Biliteracy Awards	Summary	Details

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

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Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

The screenshot displays the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) IWAS SIS interface. The left sidebar contains a menu with the following items: SIS, Home, Student, Assessment, Adjusted Cohort, Teacher, Early Childhood Transition, Prenatal, Reports (circled in red), Batch File Processing, District Data Verification, Seal of Biliteracy Application, and Internal. The main content area shows the 'Individual' report page. At the top of this page is a 'Back To Reports' link. Below it is a section titled 'Enter SID :'. Inside this section is a text input field (circled in red) and a 'Search' button.

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

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Individual

Enter SID :

Search

SID :

Last Name :

First Name :

Date Of Birth :

Select Report Type :

- ☐ Demographics and Enrollment
- ☒ Assessment Data and Scores
- ☐ Course Assignment
- ☐ Outside Course Assignment
- ☐ Student Transfer Form
- ☐ Student Profile
- ☐ Student Profile (with page breaks)
- ☐ National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) 2-Page Certificate

View Report Create PDF Report

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

Student Assessment Data and Scores Report

Student ID:

School Year: 2020

English Learners

Grade Level:	9	Content Area Tutoring:	
Date First Enrolled in District/LEA:	02/24/2020	Developmental Bilingual Education:	
New Arrival to U.S.:	N	Dual Language & Two Way Immersion:	
EL Placement - Entry Status:	13	Heritage Language:	
Native Language Code:	001	Sheltered English Instruction:	
Race Code:	11	Transitional Bilingual:	
Migrant Indicator:	N	Content Based ESL:	
Special Education IEP Indicator:	Y	Structured English Immersion or SDAIE:	
Date Enrolled or Re-entered to Receive EL Services:	02/24/2020	Pull-Out ESL:	
Class Periods Provided Per Week:	02	Inclusionary Support:	
Title III Status:		Pull-Out for Individual Support:	
Immigrant Education Program:		Self-Contained:	
504 Accommodation Indicator:			

ACCESS Testing

Tier:	C	Listening Proficiency Level:	3.9
Listening Scale Score:	382	Speaking Proficiency Level:	3.5
Speaking Scale Score:	362	Reading Proficiency Level:	2.9
Reading Scale Score:	369	Writing Proficiency Level:	3.4
Writing Scale Score:	346	Comprehension Proficiency Level:	3.3
Comprehensive (Overall) Scale Score:	373	Oral Proficiency Level:	3.7
Oral Scale Score:	372	Literacy Proficiency Level:	3.3
Literacy Scale Score:	358	Composite (Overall) Proficiency Level:	3.4
Composite Scale Score:	362		

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

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SIS

- Home
- Student**
- Search
- Request New SID
- Multiple SID Merge
- Reverse Merge
- Exit Enrollment

SIS Key Dates

Sep 30, 2021	Last Day of DLM-AA Testing (Fall)
Oct 01, 2021	Seal of Biliteracy Application for SY 2022
Oct 08, 2021	Last day of IAR Testing – Online (Fall)
Oct 13, 2021	Primary Test Date for SAT (Fall)
Oct 13, 2021	Accommodated Testing Window for SAT (Fall) - Start Date
Oct 26, 2021	Accommodated Testing Window for SAT (Fall) - End Date
Oct 28, 2021	Makeup Test Date for SAT (Fall)

Next SIS Webinar

District Status as of 09/27/2021 04:04 PM

District: -- All Districts --

☒ Home ☐ Serving

District Metrics

Early Childhood Metrics

Current Collection Completion Status

	Required	Complete	Percent
Prenatal	851	76	8%
Birth To Three Student Programs	4925	1084	22%
Birth To Three Program Providers	1084	658	60%
Birth To Three Caregivers	4925	1208	24%
Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Ratings	12354	8040	65%
Early Childhood Student Programs	40585	15375	37%
Early Childhood Program Providers	14702	14523	98%
English Learner (EL)	158853	87309	54%
EL Screener	39268	24479	62%
Homeless	16493	11040	66%
Eligible for Immigrant Student Program	98234	66775	67%
Student Address for NEW IDEA students	205913	204584	99%
Regional Safe Schools Program (RSSP)	722	260	36%

Current Enrollments & Program Indicators

The bar chart displays current enrollment numbers across various educational levels. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 120,000. The x-axis categories are Evaluation, Birth to 3, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade through 12th Grade. Enrollment starts low at the evaluation stage (~5,000), rises sharply for Birth to 3 (~10,000) and Pre-K (~40,000), peaks around Kindergarten (~100,000), and remains relatively stable between 90,000 and 110,000 for grades 1 through 12.

☒ Current Enrollment ☐ EL ☐ IDEA ☐
☐ Homeless ☐ FRL Refresh

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Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

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Seal of Biliteracy Application

Internal

Search SID

SID

OR

Legal Last Name

Legal First Name

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

Gender

Search

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

The screenshot displays the SIS (Student Information System) interface for the Illinois State Board of Education. The left sidebar contains navigation links for SIS, Home, Student, Search, Request New SID, Multiple SID Merge, Reverse Merge, Exit Enrollment, Assessment, Adjusted Cohort, Teacher, Early Childhood Transition, Prenatal, Reports, Batch File Processing, District Data Verification, Seal of Biliteracy Application, and Internal. The main content area shows a search results page titled "Search SID - Potential Match Summary". It includes a "Search Criteria:" section and a table of search results. The table has columns for SID, Last Name, First Name, Middle Name, DOB, Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Birth Place Name, Native Language, and Action. A red circle highlights the "Action" column, which contains a "Select" link. The search results show 1 potential student match found.

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< Back To Search

Search SID - Potential Match Summary

Search Criteria:

SID	Last Name	First Name	DOB	Gender
		Mohammed		

Search Results: 1 potential student matches found.

SID	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	DOB	Gender	Race/Ethnicity	Birth Place Name	Native Language	Action
		Mohammed			Male		Brooklyn NY		Select

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

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Demographic Enrollments Program Indicators EL Information Services

SID:

Legal Last Name: Legal First Name: Mohammed Legal Middle Name:

Date of Birth Gender Male

Race/Ethnicity White Student Lineage (Jr, II)

Birth Place Name Brooklyn NY Mother's Maiden Name

EL Screener View Details

Student Address View Details

Seal of Biliteracy Awards Gifted and Accelerated View Details

Edit

Screeners and ELP Elements in IWAS -- SIS

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EL Screener Data

SID:

Legal Last Name:

Legal First Name: Mohammed

Date Of Birth:

Home RCDTS:

Screener Test

MODEL

Tested Home RCDTS

Test Date

03/24/2015

Grade Tested

Kindergarten

Semester

Semester 1

	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing	Composite Literacy	Composite Oral	Overall
Raw Score / Level	24	6				NA	
Proficiency Level	4	3				3.5	
Was the student determined EL?	Yes						

1 2

Edit

Resources

Screeners Guidance at Multilingual Webpage



KEY DATES



MULTILINGUAL DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTERS

English Learners /
Bilingual Education

Migrant Education
Program

Illinois State Seal of
Biliteracy

Visiting International
Teacher Program

Multilingual /
Language
Development
Department
Complaint Process

Illinois Advisory
Council on Bilingual
Education (IACBE)

Newcomer
Resources

World Languages

Screeners Guidance at Multilingual Website

MULTILINGUAL

English Learners / Bilingual Education

- [Resources for Districts](#)
- [Resources for Teachers](#)
- [Resources for Parents](#)
- [Accountability](#)
- [EL Enrollment](#)
- [Title III Grants](#)
- [English Learners with IEPs](#)

MULTILINGUAL

ENGLISH LEARNERS / BILINGUAL EDUCATION

The Multilingual / Language Development Department provides leadership, advocacy and support to districts, parents and policy makers by promoting equitable access to language support services for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who have been identified as English Learners. ISBE offers resources for District staff, Teachers, and parents about English learners and students in bilingual programs. In addition, Title III grants, Accountability, dually-identified English Learners with IEPs, and Multilingual Early Learners are also addressed.

Resources for
Districts

Resources for
Teachers

Resources for
Parents

Accountability

EL Enrollment

Title III Grants

English Learners
with IEPs

Multilingual Early
Learners

Screeners Guidance at Multilingual Webpage

MULTILINGUAL English Learners / Bilingual Education

EL Enrollment

- Identification
- Placement
- Assessment

MULTILINGUAL EL ENROLLMENT

The enrollment of any new student to the district must include a Home Language Survey. Potential English Learners (ELs) must be screened and placed in EL services if they qualify. Additionally, all ELs must take the annual English language proficiency assessment (ACCESS). Districts must make annual placement determinations for ELs based on the ACCESS scores.

Identification

Placement

Assessment

RESOURCES

- 2025-26 State Assessment Dates 📄 (Updated 07/24/2025)
- 2024-25 State Assessment Dates 📄 (Updated 01/06/2025)
- Immigrant Students: Your Rights to Free Public Education (Available in 8 languages) 📄

Screener Guidance at Multilingual Webpage

MULTILINGUAL
English Learners / Bilingual
Education
EL Enrollment

Identification

MULTILINGUAL IDENTIFICATION

This page contains information and resources on the identification of newly enrolled English learners (ELs). The enrollment of any new student to a district must include a [Home Language Survey](#) . Potential ELs must be screened and [placed in EL services](#) if they qualify. Districts must make [annual placement determinations](#) for ELs based on the ACCESS scores.

Enrollment



Identification



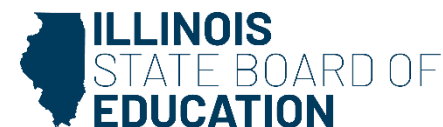
Home Language Surveys



Screener/English Language Proficiency Test



After the Screener



Fall 2025

- Students who achieved a 4.8 composite or higher have their English learner status changed to “No” in SIS based on 2025 results.
- District must change those students who reclassified to “No” in their local student management system.
- October 31 is when districts need to have enrolled students screened to be captured in the Pre-ID file.
- ACCESS test ordering window is from October 10 to November 6. Districts will be able to order additional needed materials during the additional ordering window.

Reminders

- The K MODEL for screening kindergarten students was retired after the 2022-23 school year. The [WIDA Screener for Kindergarten](#) is the prescribed ELP screener for Illinois.
- Communicate with parents to inform them that they **cannot** refuse screening to ID for EL.
- Communicate to parents that they **cannot** refuse administration of the WIDA ACCESS.

Reminders

- [The 2020 English Language Development Framework](#) is our current resource for ELD standards.
- The two questions asking about home language presence and use are not to be altered.
- The parent signature and date **MUST** be immediately below the 2 HLS questions for both digital and paper versions.
- The **NEW** [Alternate ACCESS](#) was implemented FY 2024 for ACCESS testing.
- Redesigned Kindergarten ACCESS
 - Implemented in 2025-26.
 - All staff need to recertify to administer this assessment beginning September 29, 2025.
- ACCESS will have standard setting completed in summer of 2026

Questions?

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Identification and Assessment of ELs

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Thank you