English Learner Funding Overview

New Director Training

September 23, 2026

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Agenda

- English Learner (EL) – Title III Intent to Apply (ITA)
- Consolidated District Plan (CDP) and Bilingual Service Plan (BSP)
- Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP)
- Immigrant Student Education Program (ISEP)
- English Learner – Evidence Based Funding (EL-EBF)

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English Learner – Title III Intent to Apply

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Purpose of the ITA

- Data collection for the purpose of generating funding ceilings for the fiscal year federal Title III LIEP and ISEP funding
  - Districts indicate intent to apply for Title III LIEP and/or ISEP funding.
  - Districts can elect to be placed on consortium interest list to be an admin or member district to help meet the $10,000 threshold requirement for LIEP.
  - Projected funding ranges for ISEP based on immigrant student count are listed.
  - Document meaningful consultations between districts and private schools within their boundaries (participating EL private school students are included in the district's total EL population).
- ITA must match the Consolidated District Plan (CDP).

Purpose of the Consolidated District Plan

- The purpose of the CDP is for the district to indicate for which programs it anticipates receiving funding in the upcoming school year. Specific to Title III grants, the district will provide the following information in the CDP:
  - Needs assessment results for LIEP and/or ISEP along with a description of how the district plans to address the needs listed in the assessment results with supplemental activities
  - A plan to implement activities/strategies for effective English learner and immigrant family engagement
  - Additional and supplemental instructional assistance for English learners and immigrant students to access academic content and develop language proficiency
  - Additional supplemental instructional strategies designed to strengthen academic and language programs for English learners and immigrant students.
  - Professional development activities the district plans to fund with Title III LIEP and/or ISEP

Bilingual Service Plan (BSP)

- Component of the Consolidated District Plan
- Required to be completed by all districts with at least 1 English learner
  - EL counts are taken from the current year to plan for the following year.
- Collects information for the district's EL program to
  - Review planned programming for districts in combination with reported data in SIS
  - Help ISBE Multilingual/Language Development Department better support school districts
  - Identify districts with programming support needs.

CDP/BSP Reminders

- Grant applications are not included in the CDP; those are completed separately.
- A district must have a fully approved CDP prior to any grant applications being approved.
- The CDP and the ITA must match regarding Title III grants (LIEP and/or ISEP).
- The recommended due date for the CDP is April 1.
- Districts should ensure that EL student information in the Student Information System (SIS) is accurate and matches what is entered on the BSP.

English Learner – Title III Language Instruction Educational Program

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What is the Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) grant?

- LIEP is a federally funded Title III program.
- LIEP is a formula-based grant.
  - LIEP eligibility is based on the student count from the previous year. A district or a consortium must generate $10,000 to be eligible.
  - Per pupil funding varies annually based on the amount of funding available and the number of eligible students statewide.
    - The per pupil allocation for FY27 is $95.
  - Eligible students are English learners (EL) in a public school with any EL entry/placement status in SIS and the number of eligible participating private school students.

What is the purpose of the LIEP grant?

- Implementation of high-quality instructional programs for ELs that will help them attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects, meet the Illinois Learning Standards, and graduate from high school prepared to enter college or career;
- Providing professional development and training to teachers and administrators designed to improve the instruction and assessment of ELs; and
- Promoting parental, family, and community participation in the education of ELs.

English Learner – Title III Immigrant Student Education Program

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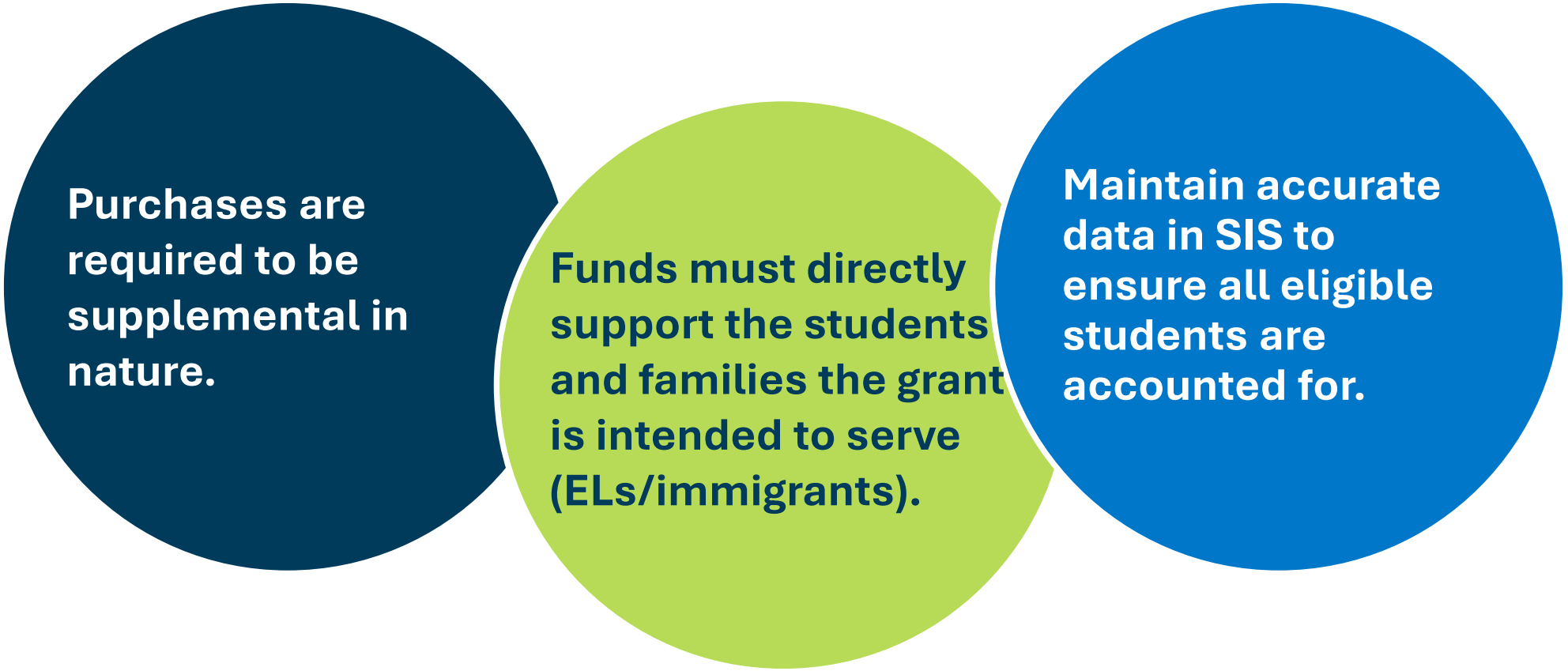
What is the purpose of the ISEP grant?

- The purpose of ISEP is to assist eligible immigrant students and their families so that these students can meet the same challenging grade level language and academic standards as mainstream students.
  - Funds received from the ISEP grant can be used to provide enhanced supplemental instructional opportunities for immigrant children and youth.
  - Districts may be eligible for ISEP even if they are not eligible for LIEP.

What is the eligibility criteria for the ISEP grant?

- Federal Title III regulations require that eligibility for ISEP be based on a current year student data and the district had a significant increase in the number of immigrant students.
- ISBE defines this increase as:
  - A Minimum of 10 immigrant students currently enrolled in the district; AND
  - Either a 3% or 50 student increase (whichever is fewer) over the average of the immigrant student enrollment for the preceding two fiscal years.
    - This includes private school count.
- Eligible immigrant students are age 3 through 21, not born in the United States, District of Colombia, or Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and who have not attended one or more schools in any U.S. state for more than three full academic years.

Title III Grants – Key Takeaways



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English Learner – Evidence Based Funding

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What is the purpose of EL-EBF?

- State funding provided for EL programming (Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs and Transitional Programs of Instruction (TPI)
  - EBF Spending Plan for EL programming is completed annually by October 31.
  - EL-EBF is meant to be used by the district in the year it is received.
  - Districts that continue to have EL-EBF carried over from year to year are at risk of violating the supplement vs. supplant provisions of Title III.
  - An annual summary Expenditure Report must be submitted (July 20) by districts receiving $5,000 or more in EL-EBF.
  - It is recommended that EL-EBF Spending Plan be reviewed for inputs from the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) before October 31 for districts with a TBE program.

EL-EBF Expenditures

- Not required to be supplemental
- Can use funding to pay for extra costs of the requirements of running an EL program; 60% must be used for instructional related costs (expenditures found under function 1000)
- No other limitations, so long as the funds are used to support EL students

Comprehensive Deep Dive into English Learner Funding and Reporting

Friday at 2:45

South 5

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Questions?

- Our team is here to help!
  - Randi Sucic
    - rsucic@isbe.net
  - Assigned Principal Consultant Listing

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Thank you!

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