English Learners/Bilingual Education
Announcements

NEW! Application for the FY23 EL – Title III Intent to Apply is Now Available through IWAS

Application for the EL - Title III Intent to Apply, which includes funding for the Title III-Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) and Immigrant Student Education Program (ISEP), is now available for school year 2022-23 (fiscal year 2023). All school districts serving English Learners (ELs) and immigrant children and youth are eligible to apply. The due date for submission of the Intent to Apply application is **March 1.** Visit the [Title III Grants](#) webpage and then click on the blue drop-down bar labeled "Intent to Apply" for more information.

If you have any further questions or need any assistance, please contact your district's assigned consultant or email the Multilingual Department at Multilingual@isbe.net.

NEW! FY22 EL - Title III Grant Periodic Reports

FY 2022 EL - Title III Grant Periodic Reports (GPR) for the EL-Title III LIEP and ISEP are now available through the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) system. The due date for the first biannual report, which covered activities from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021, was **Jan. 31**. The deadline has now passed. Please complete and submit your report **as soon as possible!**

All districts, except cooperative member districts, that receive Title III funds in FY 2022 are required to submit their GPR by the deadline. For more information on how to complete the GPR, please visit https://www.isbe.net/Pages/GrantPeriodicReporting.aspx and go to the "English Learner-Title III" dropdown under "Program Specific Information."

If you have any further questions or need any assistance, please contact your district's assigned consultant or email the Multilingual Department at Multilingual@isbe.net.

REMINDER! FY 2022 EL - Title III Immigrant Student Education Program

Applications for the EL - Title III Immigrant Student Education Program are available through the (IWAS) system for school year 2021-22 (FY 2022). The list of eligible and non-eligible school districts that have submitted an Intent to Apply for the FY 2021 ISEP grant is now posted on the Multilingual Department's webpage. Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), specifies that eligibility and funding for the Title III ISEP grant must be based on the total current year enrollment of immigrant students in the district and nonpublic schools within the district's boundary.

All eligible applicants must create and apply through the IWAS system. To create an application, select "Year: 2022" and choose "Create Application." If a checkbox appears, the applicant must select "Yes" before creating an application. Districts with carryover funds from last fiscal year will need to create an FY 2022 application to use the carryover funds. Please note that districts that have not submitted their ISEP final expenditure report, which was due Sept. 20, 2021, will not see their carryover funds posted on their ISEP applications.

Due Date: To ensure a **Sept. 1, 2021**, start date, districts must complete and submit the application to ISBE. The Jan. 14 deadline has now passed. Please complete and submit your application **as soon as possible!** For more information, please contact your assigned consultant or Seng Naolhu at snaolhu@isbe.net.

REMINDER! FY 2022 EL – Bilingual Service Plan
The FY 2022 EL - Bilingual Service Plan (BSP) application is available in the electronic Grants Management System through IWAS.

All school districts enrolling ELs in FY 2021 and listed with fewer than 20 ELs or listed with 20 or more ELs must create and submit the short or long version of BSP through IWAS. Once you are in the system, create your application by selecting "Year: 2022" and choosing "Create Application." Some grants display a "Yes" checkbox that must be selected before the "Create Application" button appears.

Due Date: The Nov. 30 deadline has now passed. Please complete and submit your application **as soon as possible!**

Please make sure that approval groups are properly assigned through IWAS in order to access the system and submit your application. Technical assistance pertaining to items not covered by the instructions link in IWAS may be obtained by contacting your program consultant.

REMINDER! Working Group Volunteers
Sign up here if you are interested in volunteering for any multilingual working groups or have interest in an opportunity to provide stakeholder feedback.

REMINDER! Bilingual and ESL Matrix
The new and improved PreK-12 Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) Matrix is now posted on our website. Click here to view it. If you have any questions, please contact the Multilingual Department at multilingual@isbe.net.

REMINDER! Bilingual Education Endorsement
The process to get either a Bilingual Education endorsement or an ESL endorsement is now on the Educator Effectiveness webpage. You can find them here under the Pathways to Licensure drop-down menu.

ISBE-Sponsored Webinars and Workshops

ESSA AND MULTLINGUAL CONFERENCE

NEW! Registration Now Open for 2022 ESSA and Multilingual Conference
ISBE is pleased to announce it will again be hosting, in conjunction with The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning, a combined ESSA and Multilingual Illinois Statewide Conference virtually **Feb. 22-25**. The online format, which permits participants to view presentations live and on demand, proved to be popular last year. Registration is now open on The Center's website.

This year's virtual conference features:

- Four engaging keynote presentations
- 70 live breakout sessions
- 80 pre-recorded presentations
- Live Zumba or yoga early morning sessions
- Mid-afternoon cultural coffee breaks
- Two Administrator Academies and two information sessions for schools receiving IL-EMPOWER targeted support

We hope to see you there!

Leveraging Resources: Blending and Braiding Funds

ISBE has released a webinar for district- and school-level administrators. "Leveraging Resources: Blending and Braiding Funds" will assist districts in maximizing the use of the additional funds that they have received. The webinar is specifically designed to help district administrative teams plan holistically; develop cohesive programs and services; and ensure sustainability through blending and braiding of federal, state, and local funds. For more information, click here. View the presentation here.

IRC-ISBE FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING!

REMINDER! The Illinois Resource Center (IRC) offers **free professional learning** opportunities to Illinois educators with support from the Illinois State Board of Education. New IRC-ISBE free professional learning opportunities are here! Make sure to consider these dates as you plan for the school year. Click here to access archived professional learning sessions.

WIDA-ISBE FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING!

NEW! WIDA offers **free professional learning** opportunities to Illinois educators with support from ISBE. New WIDA-ISBE free professional learning opportunities are here! Make sure to consider these dates as you plan for the school year.

WIDA Certification

DOWNLOAD YOUR WIDA Certification History! WIDA Secure Portal users now have the option to download their entire certification history, which can then be printed or emailed to a coordinator or supervisor. Log in to the WIDA Secure Portal and go to **My Profile**. Click **Export PDF** at the top of the Certifications table to see your entire assessment training history, followed by the professional learning courses you've completed.

WIDA Early Years

NEW! Resources and tools are available for early childhood educators who serve multilingual children. **WIDA Early Years eLearning** resources focus on supporting young multilingual children in early care and education settings. New offerings, such as *Promising Practices Roll-out Kit* webinars and *Making Connections: Using the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards and WIDA Early Years Resources to Plan Instruction for Young Multilingual Children,* are **free** comprehensive resources that offer suggestions, tools, and sample plans for teachers who want to plan equitable learning opportunities for young multilingual children. For more information and to register for upcoming free webinars focusing on this resource, click here.

The early care and education community in Illinois has free access to these resources, which are provided through Early Childhood Professional Learning and ISBE. Go to https://www.eclearningil.org/about-us/wida-early-years for a description of recent eLearning resources that are available, FAQs, and instructions for creating a user account for WIDA Early Years eLearning.

Screening and Testing

ACCESS

NEW! Parent letters translated into 5 languages to bilingual families are now available on the Multilingual Assessment webpage. Go to the "ACCESS Resources" dropdown. These letters are for district use that address the rationale for administering the ACCESS for ELLs assessment to EL students in person.

2021-22 Accessibility and Accommodations Manual

The Accessibility and Accommodations Manual (previously the Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement) for the 2021-22 school year is now available on the WIDA website. The new manual also includes updated graphics and more user-friendly text.

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

WIDA has released a new screening tool for kindergarten. *Illinois will continue using WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten through school year 2022.* Adding a new screener requires that state rules and data systems be updated. Implementation will be announced next year. Once available, the kit and training will be posted in the WIDA Secure Portal. Preprinted copies of the new screener may be purchase from the WIDA Store. A webinar that previews the WIDA Kindergarten screener that is to be adopted is available on the WIDA Secure Portal. Once in the portal, click "Professional Learning">Click on "Webinars" in title bar> Scroll to "*Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators*" for the webinar.

2021 ACCESS Final Results Dates

Finalized results, including corrections that require rescoring or merging records, are available digitally in the WIDA Assessment Management System (WIDA AMS). Complete results will be posted in the Student Information System (SIS) by late January or early February 2022. Printed reports were sent Jan. 10. There are some test results that were delayed due to materials being submitted later to Data Recognition Corp. (DRC). Those results will be posted eventually upon receipt and processed by SIS. See Multilingual's Key Dates for more reference.

2022 ACCESS for ELLs

- **REMINDER:** Students who were identified as an English Learners with the provisional screener last year (2020-21) and did not take the 2021 ACCESS or have missing 2021 ACCESS results must be screened with a prescribed screener.
    - Students provisionally identified must be screened with a prescribed screener prior to the 2022 ACCESS for ELLs administration window.
- Students who were reclassified through the 2021 ACCESS but received a Pre-ID Label must be excused from 2022 ACCESS testing.
- For more important testing dates, refer to the Multilingual Key Dates or the WIDA Illinois page, where testing checklists are now updated for your ACCES planning needs.
- **NOTE!: ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual: Page Missing from Print Version**
- The print copy of the ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual has an incomplete version of the **WIDA Writing Rubric Pre-K –** Kindergarten, which is located in the appendix. When scoring the Kindergarten ACCESS Writing test, test administrators should either refer to the online version of the ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual, located in the WIDA Secure Portal, or the standalone WIDA Writing Rubric Pre-K – Kindergarten, located in the Resource Library on **the** WIDA website. A link to this resource may also be found in the **Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring** training course, which can be accessed through the WIDA Secure Portal.
- **REMINDER: Return of Grades 1-3 Writing Test Materials**

    WIDA asks that Local Education Agencies that have begun testing return Grades 1-3 Writing Test Booklets as early as possible. You do not have to wait until the end of the test window to return paper materials to DRC. Returning Writing Test Booklets to DRC early or on time helps support the quality of ACCESS for ELLs scoring and ensures that score reports are not delayed.
- **Facilitator Toolkit Updates for 2021-22**

    WIDA has updated the content included in the Facilitator Toolkit for ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Screener. These PowerPoint slides include the most commonly requested assessment training slides and can be easily integrated into existing presentations to support local training by State and Local Education Agencies. The content can be downloaded from the Resources page in the WIDA Secure Portal, when filtering the resource type by Facilitator Toolkit**.**

Upcoming Q & A Sessions Concerning ACCESS Administration

Please join WIDA and DRC to learn about various ACCESS for ELLs topics.

More information and login details can be found in the WIDA Secure Portal on the Webinars page. Technology coordinators interested in attending technology-related webinars can find the 2021-22 Q&A Webinar Schedule for Technology Coordinators in WIDA AMS.

The recordings for WIDA Q&A Webinars are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal on the Webinars page within a week of the presentation. Technology coordinators may access recordings for technology-related webinars through the webinar schedule in WIDA AMS.

Go to the Assessment Department Listserv for additional Assessment information and guidance, including ACCESS for ELLs.

WIDA/DRC Customer Service Hours
- WIDA Client Services Center is available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday.
- DRC Customer Service is available 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Other Opportunities and Resources

U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs Policy Letter Regarding English Learners with Special Education Needs

NEW! The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released a Policy Letter in November that answers two questions: 1) "Does IDEA require language development goals be included in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) if that student is an English Learner?" 2) "If states and districts do not have the means to staff their schools with educators who are dually certified in special education and English language development, what are the recommended best practices that they can use to ensure they provide appropriate instruction and services to English Learners with disabilities?" Please see the full OSEP Policy Letter 21-03 that was sent to Timothy Boals, founder and director of WIDA, for the answers.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE: FRAMING SERVICES FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS IN ILLINOIS

The Multilingual Department, in conjunction with the Illinois Resource Center, has developed a technical assistance website based on the six elements from *Equitable Access to Educational Excellence: Framing Services for English Learners in Illinois*. The website has resources within each of these areas and can be found here.

NEW RESEARCH REPORT EXAMINING LONG-TERM GROWTH TRAJECTORIES OF ELS WITH AND WITHOUT IEPs

WIDA was motivated by findings of a 2018 WIDA report pointing to a large overlap between ELs with IEP designations and ELs who could be identified as long-term ELs to conduct a study to further focus on these dual-identified students. We grouped ELs by ever-IEP (those who were assigned an IEP at any point in their longitudinal record) and never-IEP status and compared these two subgroups' English language growth trajectories across time for 24 independent cohorts of ELs starting in Grades K-3 throughout 2006-11. Our findings show consistent trends of differential growth and reclassification rates for these two subgroups. Read more about this study in Examining Growth at the Intersection of IEP and (Long-Term) EL Status in the Resource Library of the WIDA website.

World Languages

Announcements

College and Career Readiness: World Languages
The Illinois Learning Standards for World Languages guide learners to develop competence to communicate effectively and interact with cultural competence to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world. **VISIT** our World Languages webpage!

Visiting International Teacher Program

Announcements

NEW! Arabic-Speaking Visiting International Teachers
ISBE is excited to welcome Arabic-speaking international teachers as part of our Visiting International Teachers Program for the 2022-23 academic year. Districts interested in hosting incoming visiting international teachers can contact Claudia Valencia at cvalenci@isbe.net to learn more about host district responsibilities and to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding.

Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

Screening and Testing

ISBE RELEASES 2021 ACCESS AND SEAL OF BILITERACY FAQ DOCUMENT

ISBE's Multilingual Department has posted an FAQ document that provides guidance on English Learner placement and Seal of Biliteracy determination with provisional and preliminary 2021 ACCESS results. This list of FAQs addresses how to place EL students for the 2021-22 school year and utilize 2021 ACCESS scores for Seal of Biliteracy awards, given the extended testing window this year. Please send any questions you may have about EL placement to your district's assigned principal consultant or multilingual@isbe.net. Please email Seal of Biliteracy questions to biliteracy@isbe.net.

Migrant Education Program

Announcements

The state Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program provides support to eligible migratory children. Migratory children have moved:
- From one district to another and one residence to another.
- Within the past three years.
- Due to economic necessity.
- With a parent, spouse, or guardian who is a migratory agricultural worker or on their own as migratory agricultural workers.

School districts can help the Migrant Education Program to identify migratory children in Illinois by using the referral link at https://idrreferrals.net. The program will arrange for a certified migratory child recruiter to interview the family to determine eligibility.