



Illinois
State Board of
Education

Multilingual Department

February 16, 2021

Announcements

ISBE is advocating for the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to make waivers available for spring 2021 assessments as soon as possible. [Please see Dr. Ayala's February 5 message](#). Illinois will apply for a waiver as soon as one is made available. In the meantime, ISBE must proceed with the necessary preparations for administering assessments in case ED does not make a waiver available. Any state that would unilaterally decide to cancel assessments without an approved waiver in place would risk losing billions of dollars in federal aid for schools.

ED has released an [addendum](#) to the May 2020 COVID-19 fact sheet on English Learners (ELs). It answers several questions that have been frequently raised by state and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in the past few weeks regarding the annual English language proficiency assessments and flexibilities that exist for statewide standardized entrance and exit procedures for the 2020- 21 school year.

Applications for the FY 2022 EL - Title III Intent to Apply Are Now Available through IWAS

Applications for the EL - Title III Intent to Apply system are now available for school year 2021-22 (fiscal year 2022). The due date for the Intent to Apply application is **March 1, 2021**. Visit [this webpage](#) and then click on the blue drop-down bar labeled "Intent to Apply" for more information.

Reminder: EL - eGMS - COVID - Student Information System Data Entry Update

EL data is due for Population in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS) Ceiling Calculator by 4 p.m. April 27, 2021. This is the Student EL data only, not EL Screener data. It is very important that this data is correctly submitted for all students marked EL in the Student Information System (SIS) as it will be used to calculate EL-Evidence-Based Funding.

Most districts are educating students remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand the limitations of providing EL services when students are learning remotely. Please continue to enter the services the students would normally receive when you report EL students in SIS for SY 2021.

EL Placement - Status, Class Periods Provided Per Week, and EL Services Provided should be entered as if the student was in-person. To determine if your district is missing Student EL data, log into SIS and run the EL Detail Report. This report is in SIS; under Reports, choose the Bilingual Section and run the **EL Detail Report** (NOT Screener Report). You can also run the EL Detail Report from the SIS District Status Panel in the Data Completion Status box.

Take time and review your report; an “N” in column AA means that you are missing EL data for that student. This data needs to be submitted correctly to SIS by 4 p.m. April 27, 2021.

The EL data includes the following:

- Date First Enrolled in District/LEA
- New Arrival to U.S.
- EL Placement- Entry Status
- Date Student Enrolled or Re-entered to Receive EL Services
- Class Periods Provided per Week
- EL Services Provided

If you have any questions regarding submission of EL student data, please call the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600 Option 3. For EL policy issues regarding the eGMS Ceiling Calculator, please email the ISBE Multilingual Department at multilingual@isbe.net.

ISBE-Sponsored Workshops

FREE UPCOMING SY 2021 WIDA WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS- [More Information & Register Here!](#)

Webinars

TOPIC	DATE	LOCATION
Attending to Equity through Instruction in the Bilingual Classroom	Webinar 3: February 18, 2021	Webinar Series
Planning with the 2020 ELD Standards Facilitated	Webinar 1: March 11 Webinar 2: March 18 Time: 9:30-11 a.m. CST	eWorkshop
Uncovering and Leveraging Students' Home Literacies in the Classroom	Online Meeting: March 30, 2021	International Consortium for Multilingual Excellence eWorkshop (ICMEE)

Learning through Two Languages for School Leaders	Start Date: May 1, 2021 Online Meeting: May 14, 2021	ICMEE
Considerations when Educating Bilingual Learners with Identified Learning Disabilities	Start Date: May 1, 2021 Online Meeting: May 14, 2021	ICMEE

IRC-ISBE FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING!

The Illinois Resource Center (IRC) offers **free professional learning** opportunities to Illinois educators with support from the Illinois State Board of Education. 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 Early Years

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. 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 eLearning resources available, FAQs, and instructions for creating a user account for WIDA Early Years eLearning.

NEW! Early Years has a few more time sensitive opportunities for information on the *Look What I Can Do!* Language-Focused Toolkit for Early Childhood Programs. This is the focus of a pilot study, but the toolkit and the accompanying online training are free **FOR ALL Illinois educators to access!** Click the links below for more information on how to participate. Click [here](#) for a flyer on an overview of the sessions for the toolkit to invite district educators.

[Noon- 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23 11 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, February 24](#)

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 (TA) website based on the six elements from *Equitable Access to Educational Excellence: Framing Services for English Learners in Illinois*. The TA website contains resources within each of these six areas and can be found [here](#).

Screening and Testing

ACCESS for ELLs Revised Dates to May 25

On December 17, 2020, ISBE revised the administration window for the ACCESS test, which measures the proficiency of English Learners in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The opening of the 2021 spring assessment window has been delayed to at least March 15. For more information, [click here](#).

ACCESS for ELLs and Other Assessment Guidance

The ISBE Assessment Department has developed guidance to support school districts with spring 2021 assessment administration, including ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, [click here](#). Additionally, if you would like more timely information concerning ACCESS or other assessments, consider signing

up for the Assessment Department listserv or for current, weekly announcements at www.isbe.net/subscribe. This link can also be used to sign-up for Multilingual news as well! Also, check out Multilingual's [Key Dates](#) for a third resource for timelines!

Guidance on Completion of English Learner Record of Provisionally Identified Students

Since October 15, 2020, new guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education Multilingual Department has instructed districts to complete EL demographic information, including the EL indicator and program information located in SIS, after a student was identified as an EL via provisional screening. This guidance revision was announced after receiving additional guidance from ED. This change is to ensure that a district's ELs are counted for state and federal funding (e.g., Evidence-Based Funding, Title III formulaic grants). For more information, [click here](#).

WIDA

New micro-offerings from WIDA Professional Learning now available!

To help navigate the unique challenges of teaching during the pandemic, WIDA launched a new series of micro-offerings. The 30-45-minute courses, which are free and open to anyone, are designed for educators who work with multilingual children and youth across a variety of settings. The following micro-offerings are now available in the Supporting Multilingual Learners during COVID-19 series:

- Distance Learning with Multilingual Learners in Mind
- Tending to Multilingual Learners' Social-Emotional Well-Being
- Consideration for Evaluating Online Resources for Multilingual Learners

Access all three courses on the [Distance Teaching and Learning webpage](#).

WIDA ELD Standards, 2020 Edition: Updates and learning

Thank you for providing your input! The educators' choice topics for the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition Q&A Webinar series are:

- **Introduction to the Updated Key Language Uses**
 - 3-4 p.m. CST on Wednesday, February 10, 2021
- **Curricular Considerations: Introduction to Collaborating around the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition**
 - 1-2 p.m. CST on Tuesday, February 23, 2021
- **Putting it all together: Next Steps for Utilizing the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition**
 - 3-4 p.m. CST on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Full details and login information can be found on the [WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition Q&A Webinar Series](#) flyer.

Did you miss the first webinar of the series *Introduction to the 2020 Edition: Big Ideas and WIDA ELD Standards Framework?* Webinar recordings will be posted to the [ELD Standards Framework](#) webpage within a week of the presentation.

Interested in Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?

WIDA will be revamping the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs](#) assessment over the next four years. Please respond to this [short survey](#) if you are interested in learning more information about this work, providing feedback on the current Alternate ACCESS for ELLs design, or being notified of opportunities for involvement in development activities.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

ESSA/ Multilingual Illinois Conference - IRC (Virtual)

For more information and registration, [click here](#).

Roosevelt University Third Annual Dual Language Symposium

For more information and registration, [click here](#).

NAELPA Virtual Conference

For more information and registration, [click here](#).

New subscribers: Please visit www.isbe.net/subscribe and select “Multilingual Newsletter,” along with any other topics or newsletters of interest to you, to begin receiving messages from the Multilingual Department. If you subscribed to the Multilingual Listserv prior to February 1, 2021, your email address has been retained on that list. To unsubscribe from the Multilingual Listserv, visit www.isbe.net/subscribe and re-submit your subscription preferences leaving “Multilingual Newsletter” unchecked. Each new submission of the subscription preferences form will override any previous submissions.