



*many*VOICES

Promoting equitable access to language support services
for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

MARCH 2022

English Learners/Bilingual Education

Announcements

NEW! Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking applications for the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (IACBE). If you are interested in applying for consideration to be a member of IACBE, please send a letter of interest with your curriculum vitae/resume to multilingual@isbe.net by April 29. For more information on IACBE, visit the [IACBE webpage](#).

REMINDER! Application for the FY 23 EL–Title III Intent to Apply is Now Available through IWAS

The application for the EL–Title III Intent to Apply, which includes funding for the Title III-Language Instruction Educational Program and Immigrant Student Education Program, 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 has passed, so please complete and submit your report **as soon as possible!** For more information, visit the [Title III Grants](#) webpage and then click on the blue Intent to Apply drop-down bar.

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! 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 isbe.net. For more information, please email the Multilingual Department at multilingual@isbe.net.

REMINDER! Bilingual Education Endorsement

Visit the [Educator Licensure Resources](#) webpage to learn about the process to get a [Bilingual Education endorsement](#) or an [ESL endorsement](#).

Workshops

Leveraging Resources: Blending and Braiding Funds

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 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. The [presentation](#) used in the webinar is available for download.

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. Make sure to consider these dates as you plan for the school year. [Archived professional learning sessions](#) are also available.

WIDA-ISBE Free Professional Learning

WIDA offers [free professional learning](#) opportunities to Illinois educators with support from ISBE. Make sure to consider these dates as you plan for the school year.

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. 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, visit wida.wisc.edu.

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 Eclearning.org for a description of recent eLearning resources that are available, FAQs, and instructions for creating a user account for WIDA Early Years eLearning.

NEW! Pedagogia con Respeto: Pairing Languages and Standards to Advance Student Learning

This two-day face-to-face workshop, which will be hosted by **Lincolnwood SD 74**, is designed for Spanish/English bilingual K-12 educators, administrators, and support staff with some or little experience using the WIDA Spanish Language Development Standards. **This workshop will be delivered primarily in Spanish. Pedagogia con Respeto: Pairing Languages and Standards to Advance Student Learning** will be held **March 17-18 at Lincoln Hall Middle School**, 6855 N. Crawford Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712.

The purpose of this bilingual workshop, using an interactive and hands-on approach, is to connect the theoretical and pedagogical foundations of the WIDA language development standards for Spanish and English to instruction and assessment in the bilingual classroom. Participants will reflect on current practice to determine ways to leverage the WIDA standards and related tools, such as Los descriptores Podemos and Can Do Descriptors, to inform curriculum design, instruction, and assessment. **Enrollment is now open**; go to the [ISBE Conference Signup System](#).

NEW! WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

This half-day face-to-face workshop, which will be hosted by **Plainfield SD 202**, is designed for test administrators of the Kindergarten Screener. **WIDA Screener for Kindergarten** will be held in a morning and an afternoon session on **April 5 at Plainfield Community Consolidated SD 202**, 15732 S. Howard Street, Plainfield, Illinois 60544.

West Harvey-Dixmoor PSD 147 will also host a half-day face-to-face workshop on **April 7 at Rosa L. Parks Middle School**, 14700 Robey Avenue, Harvey, Illinois 60426.

The purpose of this workshop is for participants to work collaboratively to strengthen their understanding of how to administer and score the Kindergarten Screener by working with hand-on assessment materials to practice both handling the materials and scoring the different domains of the WIDA Kindergarten Screener. Participants will build interrater reliability using the WIDA Kindergarten Screener writing rubric. **Enrollment is now open**; go to the [ISBE Conference Signup System](#).

NEW! Secondary Grades and Writing with Multilingual Learners

This two-day face-to-face workshop is designed for secondary grade educators in social studies, science, English language arts (ELA); English language development specialists; and instructional coaches. **Secondary Grades and Writing with Multilingual Learners** will be held **April 26-27 at Proviso Math and Science Academy**, 8601 W. Roosevelt Road, Forest Park, IL 60130.

Harlem UD 122 will also host a two-day face-to-face workshop **June 2-3 at Harlem High School**, 1 Huskie Circle, Machesney Park, Illinois 61115.

The purpose of this workshop is to focus on writing instruction that supports the use of the Teaching and Learning Cycle as a way to empower multilingual writers, not only to produce successful academic writing, but more importantly, to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. The workshop aims to have students know how to leverage writing as a powerful tool to understand the world, express themselves effectively, learn from one another, and argue for things they believe in. This vision requires intentional language-focused instruction and is strengthened when it occurs through authentic writing tasks in the content areas. **Enrollment is now open**; go to the [ISBE Conference Signup System](#).

NEW! Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Elementary Grades

This two-day face-to-face workshop, which will be hosted by the **Illinois Educator Association**, is designed for elementary grade-level teachers, English language development specialists, and instructional coaches. **Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Elementary Grades** will be held **May 3-4 at Springfield Professional Development Center**, 3440 Liberty Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

The purpose of this workshop is to support the use of the Teaching and Learning Cycle as a way to empower multilingual writers, not only to produce successful academic writing, but, more importantly, to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and different audiences. The workshop aims to have students know how to leverage writing as a powerful tool to understand the world, express themselves effectively, learn from one another, and argue for the things they believe in. This vision requires intentional, language-focused instruction and is strengthened when it occurs through authentic writing tasks in the content areas. **Enrollment is now open**; go to the [ISBE Conference Signup System](#).

Opportunities for Spanish Teachers

The Spanish Ministry of Education is offering free virtual workshops for teachers of Spanish. These workshops are hosted by universities in Spain and cover a range of topics that will help you develop your skills in the classroom. Please visit the following links for more information and to register!

- Workshops pamphlet: [Talleres de universidades](#)
- Additional information: [Cursos de verano](#)

Screening and Testing

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 > Webinars in title bar > Scroll to Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators for the webinar.

2021 ACCESS Final Results

All ACCESS for ELLs test results for 2021 have been provided to the Student Information System (SIS) by Data Recognition Corp. (DRC). DRC is responsible for the test platform and the scoring of the testing on paper and the online Speaking and Writing domains. SIS has finalized the results, and these are available in IWAS. Districts were sent paper Individual Student Reports Jan. 10, but districts can also access the reports in PDF format in the WIDA Assessment Management System.

2022 ACCESS for ELLs

- The testing window for 2022 ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS closed March 4. Districts should return secure test materials by March 11. Test results may be delayed if test booklets are not returned by the deadline. NOTE: Ensure that ACCESS test booklets are marked properly (filling in the ovals) so that DRC can read the responses and that booklet covers completed by hand have accurate student information.
- The 2022 ACCESS Corrections window opened March 7 in SIS. This is located in the blue sidebar at Assessment > Correction > ACCESS. Reasons for students not tested are to be recorded in this area.

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 on 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

REMINDER! U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs Policy Letter

Regarding English Learners with Special Education Needs

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.

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

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. For more information, visit our [World Languages](#) webpage.

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- Workshops pamphlet: [Talleres de universidades](#)
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Visiting International Teacher Program

NEW! Host an International Teacher in Your District

We are looking for districts that would like to host an international teacher from Morocco starting fall 2022. Our [Visiting International Teacher \(VIT\) Program](#) has recently increased its international footprint to include a partnership with the Teachers of English Association of Morocco (TEAM). TEAM has worked closely with us to recruit talented Moroccan teachers to participate in the [J-1 cultural exchange program](#) for teachers. These teachers come with at least two years of teaching experience, are proficient in English and Arabic (many speak French as well), and can teach in PK-12th grade classrooms. These fantastic educators can work in your district for at least three years with the opportunity to extend for a total of five years and are supported by ISBE for the entirety of their program.

If you are interested in hosting an international teacher from Morocco or would like to learn more about our VIT Program and partnerships, please email VIT Program Coordinator Claudia Valencia at cvalenci@isbe.net.

REMINDER! Arabic-Speaking Visiting International Teachers

ISBE is excited to welcome Arabic-speaking international teachers as part of our VIT Program for the 2022-23 academic year. Districts interested in hosting incoming visiting international teachers can email cvalenci@isbe.net to learn more about host district responsibilities and to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding.

Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

ISBE Releases 2021 ACCESS and Seal of Biliteracy FAQ Document

ISBE 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

Migrant Education Program

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://idreferrals.net> or scanning the QR code below. The program will arrange for a certified migratory child recruiter to interview the family to determine eligibility.





The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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