



May 05, 2021

NEW! Fifteenth Annual Statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents



NEW! Supporting English Learners with Disabilities During Remote Learning and School Reopening: Recommendations for State Leaders

The Council of Chief State School Officers has released the *Supporting English Learners with Disabilities During Remote Learning and School Reopening: Recommendations for State Leaders* resource. To view, [click here](#).

ISBE-Sponsored Workshops

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

Webinars

TOPIC	DATE	LOCATION
Learning through Two Languages for School Leaders	Online Meeting: May 14, 2021	International Coalition for Multilingual Education and Equity (ICMEE)
Considerations when Educating Bilingual Learners with Identified Learning Disabilities	Online Meeting: May 20, 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 (ECPL) 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.

In early May, ISBE and ECPL are providing the early care and education community in Illinois with [free access](#) to a spring webinar series from WIDA Early Years.

- You can support young multilingual children in the following ways:
 - Support Multilingual Families
 - Provide Equitable Opportunities for Multilingual Children
 - Affirm Young Children's Linguistic Identities

Go to <https://www.eclearningil.org/about-us/wida-early-years> and download the [WIDA Early Years Spring Webinar Series for Member State Flyer](#) for registration links. There will be four 60-minute sessions taking place on May 5, 2021. You can register for as many sessions as you like. ISBE credit will be available.

New Micro-offerings from WIDA Professional Learning now Available!

WIDA has launched a new series of micro-offerings to help educators navigate the unique challenges of teaching during the pandemic. The courses take 30-45 minutes and are free and open to anyone. They 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](#).

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 technical assistance website contains resources within each of these six areas and can be found [here](#).

Screening and Testing

Provisional Screening and Identification of English Learners

Provisional Screening and Identification: ACCESS for ELLs Eligibility FAQ

English Learners (ELs) who were identified through the provisional process must take ACCESS for ELLs. [This document](#) answers some of the many questions regarding ELs who are eligible to take the ACCESS language proficiency assessment for 2020-21.

[Provisional Identification and Placement Procedures During Remote Learning Situations Update](#)
[Click here](#) to view the March 2021 update of the *Provisional Identification and Placement Procedures During Remote Learning Situations* document.

Guidance on Completion of English Learner Record of Provisionally Identified Students

Since October 15, 2020, new guidance from the ISBE Multilingual Department has instructed districts to complete EL demographic information, including the EL indicator and program information located in the Student Information System (SIS), after a student was identified as an EL via provisional screening. This revision was announced after receiving additional guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. 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 Screener for Kindergarten

WIDA has released a new screening tool for kindergarten. Illinois will continue using WIDA MODEL for kindergarten through the remainder of school year 2021 and into SY 2022. Adding this new screener requires updating state rules

and data systems. Watch for a fall announcement regarding implementation. Once available, the kit may be downloaded and printed locally, or it can be ordered preprinted from the WIDA Store.

Resources:

- There is a WIDA Screener for Kindergarten SEA Communications Toolkit. Use the toolkit to update your internal documentation and to share messages about the test with your educators. The toolkit and accompanying social media graphics can be found in the SEA Secure Portal by selecting *Documents > Assessment* and filtering by *WIDA Screener*.
- See the news article, [WIDA Screener for Kindergarten: Get ready to use it, find out what's available this spring](#), regarding Local Education Agencies that have questions about where to find more information and how to access test resources and materials. ACCESS to the training module will be shared with all Illinois account holders on the WIDA Secure Portal as we get closer to SY 2022.

ACCESS

NEW! ACCESS Testing – Early Results for Spring Testing

Early ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS test results will be posted in SIS on August 2, 2021, for SY 2022 planning. These **provisional results** will include scores for ELs who complete all domains of the assessment by June 30, 2021. DRC must be in possession of completed paper test booklets by June 30, 2021, for their inclusion. Partial administrations or scores separated into multiple records will not be part of this early release. The ACCESS Preliminary Data Review, scheduled for November 8 to November 19, 2021, will include all results for SY 2021. ISBE will send ACCESS data corrections to DRC after the November review closes. Final results, including corrections that require rescoring or merging records, will be available digitally December 15, 2021, in the WIDA Assessment Management System. They will be posted in SIS by January 19, 2022.

ACCESS for ELLs Letter to Bilingual Families

The ISBE Multilingual Department has created parent letters for families of English Learners that address the rationale for assessing students in person using the ACCESS for ELLs for the spring and fall 2021 windows. Spanish, Arabic, Polish, Tagalog, and Urdu translations of the letter are available. To view the letters, [click here](#) under the “**ACCESS Resources**” drop-down bar.

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.

NEW! Look for an Frequently Asked Questions document on the MD website in the coming weeks pertaining to EL placement decisions in correlation to the Assessment Department’s [early results for spring ACCESS testing](#).

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