



Illinois State Board of Education

Multilingual Department

September 01, 2020

Announcements

Screening

NEW! Provisional Screener of ELs Update

State and Federal law mandates the screening of all students who have a Home Language Survey that indicates screening is necessary. During Phase 4 of Restore Illinois, in-person instruction is allowed. Therefore, districts are expected to screen their students using the complete and official Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) English proficiency screeners for Kindergarten (WIDA MODEL), grades 1-12 (WIDA Screener) and the prescribed screening procedures for PreK. ISBE recognizes that there are some districts across Illinois whose school boards have not only chosen to only provide 100% remote instruction during these initial days of school, but they have also banned students from entering school buildings temporarily. In this situation, in-person screening of potential ELs may be impossible but identification of ELs is still required. Therefore, the [provisional screener](#) may only be used by those districts where instruction is **100% remote and students are not allowed to enter school facilities**. As soon as any in-person instruction is available then districts must officially screen all potential ELs using the mandated screeners.

Please note, provisional screeners may **NOT** be used in the case of a parent refusing to bring students into buildings to be screened. Districts should continue to make every effort to administer an official screener, think creatively about how to administer the screener (for example, meet outside the school building in the open air), and should document their efforts.

Reports

NEW! EBF Spending Plan

As of August 1, 2020, the FY21 EBF Spending Plan is open in IWAS. On September 30, 2020, IWAS will close the submissions for this spending plan. As a reminder, every Organizational Unit ("Organizational Unit" is defined by all school districts, laboratory schools, Regional Offices of Education, and Intermediate Service Centers) in the state is required to complete an annual spending plan regardless of the amount of EBF dollars received. The EBF spending plan is designed to be completed as a collaborative exercise between the finance and program areas of a district to align available dollars with student needs and opportunities. Please note that for FY21 there will be no new tier funding provided. For information on EBF Student Allocation and to check the amount allocated for ELs in your district, please view the [FY21 Student Population Funding Allocation Summary](#). Other information related to the spending plan can be found on the [EBF](#) page on ISBE's website. Please direct any questions to ebfspendingplan@isbe.net.

Grants

FY 2021 EL - Title III Language Instruction Educational Program Application

Federal Title III grants – The Multilingual Department is pleased to announce that the **FY21 Title III Language Instruction Educational Program** is now available for completion on IWAS. Please note that the title of the application changed from ELL-TBE/TPI and Title III to EL-Title III Language Instruction Educational

Program. Because this is a new application, program directors may have to sign up for authorization to enter and save information on the application.

To create a new application, districts need to select the EL-Title III Language Instruction Educational Program and check, “Yes” on the question, “Would you like to create new project for the current year?” Every district with an approved FY21 Intent to Apply should have their FY21 Title III LIEP applications ready for creation on IWAS.

This application does not include the Immigrant Education Program. A separate Title III Immigrant Education Program application will be released in November of 2020 when the districts eligible for the program are determined based on 2020-21 school year data. For information, [click here](#).

Virtual Conference

NEW! FY21 State Bilingual Program Directors Meeting

The FY21 Bilingual Directors Meeting will take place virtually during the week of 9/21 to 9/25, 2020. It is **highly recommended** that district administrators in charge of English learner program services register and attend this event. Up to 3 individuals from a district may participate.

Approximately 9 hours of live presentations will take place during the week, about 3 hours on Monday, 9/21, Thursday, 9/24 and Friday 9/25. There will also be a repository of pre-recorded sessions that registrants will be able to access.

On Tuesday 9/22 and Wednesday, 9/23, bilingual directors will be able to meet with ISBE consultants on a first-come, first-served basis. ISBE consultants will also be available for individual meetings after those dates.

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

ISBE-Sponsored Workshops

NEW! FREE UPCOMING SY21 WIDA WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

Free WIDA webinars starting today! Please consider these upcoming webinars: [Reading Supports for Multilingual Learners](#) and [Mathematical Meaning Making: Collaborating for Equity](#). If you or your staff are interested in participating, please register at the following link:

<http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/IsbeConfMenu.aspx>

Please register for September webinars by September 3, 2020. For more information, click [here](#).

Webinars

TOPIC	DATE	LOCATION
WIDA Writing Rubric	Opens: September 1, 2020 Ends: August 31, 2021	Self-Paced eWorkshop
Leading for Equity: Classroom Walkthrough	Opens: September 1, 2020 Ends: August 31, 2021	Self-Paced eWorkshop

Classroom Teachers: Engaging Multilingual Newcomers	Opens: September 1, 2020 Ends: August 31, 2021	Self-Paced eWorkshop
Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics	Opens: September 1, 2020 Ends: August 31, 2021	Self-Paced eWorkshop
Doing and Talking STEM	Opens: September 1, 2020 Ends: August 31, 2021	Self-Paced eWorkshop
Social Studies: Engaging Multilingual Learners Through Inquiry	Opens: September 1, 2020 Ends: August 31, 2021	Self-Paced eWorkshop
Mathematical Meaning Making: Collaborating for Equity	Opens: September 14, 2020 Ends: October 14, 2020	Live Webinar Series
Reading Supports for Multilingual Learners	Opens: September 14, 2020 Meeting: December 9, 2020	ICMEE eWorkshop
Language Specialist: Engaging Multilingual Newcomers	Starts: October 3, 2020 Ends: November 10, 2021	Live Webinar Series
School Leaders: Ensuring Equity for Multilingual Learners	Webinar 1: October 7, 2020 Webinar 2: October 14, 2020 Webinar 3: October 21, 2020	Webinar Series
Scaffolding Learning Through Language	Start Date: October 14, 2020 Webinar 1: October 21, 2020 Webinar 2: November 4, 2020 Webinar 3: November 20, 2020	Webinar Series
Interpreting ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports Overview	October 23, 2020	Assessment Overview Webinar
Home Languages in the Classroom	Opens: November 9, 2020 Meeting: March 3, 2021	ICMEE eWorkshop
Grouping Strategies for Multilingual Learners	November 9, 2020	ICMEE eWorkshop

Language Specialist: Engaging Multilingual Newcomers	Start Date: November 10, 2020 Webinar 1: November 17, 2020 Webinar 2: December 1, 2020 Webinar 3: December 16, 2020	Webinar Series
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IRC-ISBE FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING!

The Illinois Resource Center (IRC) offers these free professional learning opportunities to Illinois educators with support from the Illinois State Board of Education the catalog of February – June 2020 IRC-ISBE Free Professional Learning Opportunities is [here](#)! As you plan for the coming school year, make sure to consider these dates. To access archived professional learning sessions [click here](#).

WIDA Early Years

ISBE and The Center: Early Childhood Professional Learning would like to remind Illinois educators that access to the WIDA Early Years online learning modules will continue to be available, on demand, through the summer and into the fall. These modules focus on supporting young multilingual children, ages 2.5 to 5.5 years. The modules are FREE and take approximately one hour each to complete. ISBE and Gateways credit is available at the completion of each module. For more information, including how to access to the modules, click [here](#).

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

Interested in Alternate ACCESS for ELLs?

WIDA will be revamping the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs](#) assessment over the next four years. 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, please respond to this [short survey](#).

NEW! New Cohort of WIDA Fellows

WIDA has announce a new cohort of WIDA Fellows! WIDA Fellows are selected in an application process where WIDA personnel chooses individuals based on their contribution to teaching and collaboration in supporting English learners. The selected Fellows will collaborate with WIDA professional learning specialist to enhance WIDA products and services. The new 2020-21 WIDA Fellow from Illinois is Naseem Alibhai a bilingual resource teacher from Schaumburg. She will be joining returning 2019-20 fellows Carmen Barrios and Dennise Torres, both from Naperville. Congratulations!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

NEW! Webinar: Teacher Collaboration: Aligning Content and Language Instruction

Date: September 9, 2020 at 3:30 pm ET

Robust collaboration between content and language teachers is essential for English learner success and achievement. Language rich and cognitively rigorous learning environments, whether face-to-face or remote, are created by analyzing the language demands of the subject matter content, product, and process, and by differentiation that accounts for linguistic diversity. Accordingly, this complex analysis requires the combined expertise of content and language specialists. Such collaboration is even more critical as districts prepare to pivot to a variety of possible scenarios for instruction in the fall. This webinar will examine the policy context for content and language teacher collaboration, share research-based practices and resources, and highlight promising practices for teacher collaboration, and professional development in the post COVID-19 context.

Join presenters from Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) and Regional Education Laboratories (REL) Southwest on **September 9, 2020 at 3:30 pm ET** for a discussion on fostering successful content and language teacher collaboration.

A certificate of completion will be available to registered attendees who participate in at least 90% of the webinar time.

Be sure to join us on September 9 for this interesting discussion!

Register now:

<https://manhattan-strategy.webex.com/manhattan-strategy/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb2abd194b5aee66d0bd13f34e0238e86>

Registration Instructions

Register for the Webex Webinar through the link provided above. Please provide your first name, last name, email address, and select if you would like to join the Nexus Newsletter.

Instructions to Join the Webinar

1. After registering you will receive a confirmation notice with information and a link for joining the webinar.
 - Plan to join 5–10 minutes early to complete the sign-in process.
 - You may need to download a Webex extension on to your device.
2. Join the webinar with computer audio.
 - If you do not have a microphone or your computer audio does not work, you can join through phone.
 - a. Call the US Toll number in the confirmation notice, or
 - b. Click on the provided link to join the webinar.

If you experience any issues with registering or joining the webinar, please send an email to ncelawebinars@manhattanstrategy.com

Continuing Education Resources (#KEEPLearning)

The Illinois State Board of Education curated free resources to assist districts, teachers, and parents during this unprecedented time. The intent is to provide free or temporarily free learning resources for teachers and parents to support student learning while Illinois' schools are closed. These resources do not represent an endorsement or recommendation of curriculum or eLearning systems. The Multilingual Department added resources to assist our EL students, teachers, parents, and staff. We would also like to thank Eulalia Valdez, EL Director for Berkeley SD 87 and Suzy Dees, Director for Professional Learning for West 40 ISC #2 for the additional recommendation of resources. For more information, [click here](#).

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA)

NCELA has provided resources that address how schools and educators can create distance learning plans and lessons that consider the unique learning needs of English learners. Also, you can find resources that have been identified and selected for helping multilingual families understand how to keep their children safe during school closures and remote learning, and to help continue the education of English learners during such events. For more information, [click here](#).

Illinois Resource Center's (IRC) Remote Learning Resources

Maggie Essig from the Illinois Resource Center has curated a document with additional resources for ELs during remote learning. You can find it [here](#).

WIDA Resources

The [WIDA COVID-19](#) page on the WIDA website has been updated with a resources section. Resource topics include tips for parents and families, educator connection and collaboration, WIDA staff recommended resources, and mental health and staying well.

NEW! FY21 State Bilingual Program Directors Meeting

For information, [click here!](#)

Fifteenth Annual Statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents- In-Person: Cancelled

2020 WIDA Annual Conference - CANCELLED