



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

OCTOBER 2021

## Announcements

### **NEW! ILLINOIS STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM**

We are pleased to release the school year 2019-20 Seal of Biliteracy award [report](#). A record number of Seals -- 6,373 -- were awarded this school year, with 119 students earning more than one Seal. Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the SY 2019-20 Seal of Biliteracy program and as a result other data in this report may not reflect usual trends.

### **NEW! 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](mailto: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 RELEASES 2021 ACCESS AND SEAL OF BILITERACY FAQ DOCUMENT**

ISBE's Multilingual Department has posted an FAQ document that provides [guidance](#) on English Learner (EL) 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](mailto:multilingual@isbe.net). Please email Seal of Biliteracy questions to [biliteracy@isbe.net](mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net).

## Workshops

### **NEW! CONSIDERATIONS WHEN EDUCATING BILINGUAL LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES**

This eWorkshop is designed for classroom teachers who are ready to try out new ideas in their classrooms and share what they learned with a group of online colleagues: **Considerations When Educating Bilingual Learners With Identified Learning Disabilities**. An online [webinar](#) with six self-paced modules will be held March 31, 2022. The eWorkshop is being offered in partnership with the International Consortium for Multilingual Excellence in Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The purpose of this eWorkshop is to create an online Professional Learning Community that supports participants' collaboration and fosters ownership of their learning. Over the course of 15 weeks, participants engage in six modules that each consist of three sections: Explore, Make it Work, and Share. They select ideas to try out in their classrooms and share their experiences with colleagues in online discussion boards and one online meeting. The estimated time needed to complete the eWorkshop is 20 hours. **The enrollment deadline is Jan. 10, 2022.**

### **NEW! ENSURING EQUITY FOR MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS**

This eWorkshop is designed for school principals and administrators who are responsible for carrying out school-level policies, leading school improvement planning and data analysis processes, and making decisions about programs and professional development. No experience in using the WIDA Standards Framework is needed for this eWorkshop: [School Leaders: Ensuring Equity for Multilingual Learners](#). This series offers three professional learning units and will be held Feb. 2, 9, and 16, 2022.

Educational leaders are key to improving academic language development and academic achievement for multilingual learners. The purpose of this eWorkshop is for school leaders to reflect on their school's policies and systems in order to craft a team-based leadership action plan that promotes equitable educational opportunities for multilingual learners. Participants will engage in interactive tasks related to equitable instruction for multilingual learners, including using discussion boards, participating in self-reflections, viewing videos and analyzing them, and creating action plans. **The deadline for enrollment is Jan. 26, 2022.**

### **NEW! 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, 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 [eclearningil.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! FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

ISBE's Family and Community Engagement Department is pleased to announce the professional learning experience that will allow participants to accrue up to 5 professional development hours for participation. [The Road to Authentic Family Engagement: Understanding and Working Through Barriers Webinar](#), scheduled for Nov. 16, will allow participants to:

- Explore strategies for working around common barriers to family engagement.
- Share experiences around building authentic relationships with English Learner families.
- Review stages of immigrant parent involvement in schools, and how they impact our efforts for engagement.

Participants must attend the two-hour live session (Part A) to be eligible to complete the optional reflection/application (Part B) to earn an additional 3 professional development hours.

### 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. 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.

### NEW! WIDA-ISBE FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

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.

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

## Screening and Testing

### NEW! STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXITED THROUGH 2021 ACCESS

SIS has applied the 2021 ACCESS results for EL designations for the 2021-22 school year. Districts should change the reclassified students' EL status to "NO" in their local student management system. Districts should schedule and program the students who have completed at least three years of EL programming, have provisional ACCESS scores, and have achieved a 4.8 or greater composite as reclassified or exited from EL programming.

### PREPARING FOR THE 2022 ACCESS FOR ELLS

- The file for Pre-ID Labels will be sent to DRC Nov. 6.
  - **REMINDER:** Students who were identified as an English Learners with the provisional screener last year (2020-21) and did not take the 2021 ACCESS must have been screened with a prescribed screener and added to SIS prior to Nov. 6 in order for a Pre-ID Label to be generated for them.
  - If these students were not screened with a prescribed screener, they were not captured in the Pre-ID Label File.
  - 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

### ACCESS CORRECTIONS

ACCESS corrections are now active in the Student Information System (SIS) for demographics and reason for no valid testing. The last day to make corrections is Dec. 21. This is found in SIS->Assessment-> Corrections-> ACCESS->need SID to begin.

### 2021 ACCESS PRELIMINARY RESULTS - NOVEMBER REVIEW

The ACCESS Preliminary Data Review, scheduled for Nov. 8-19, will include all results for SY 2021. ISBE will send ACCESS data corrections to Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) after this review closes. Final results, including corrections that require rescoring or merging records, will be available digitally Dec. 15 in the WIDA Assessment Management System. They will be posted in SIS by Jan. 19, 2022. Printed reports will be sent Jan. 6, 2022. See Multilingual's [key dates](#) for more reference.

### 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.

### UPCOMING Q&A SESSIONS CONCERNING ADMINISTRATION

Please join WIDA and DRC to learn about the following ACCESS for ELLs topics:

received a Pre-ID Label must be excused from 2022 ACCESS testing.

- The Test Materials Ordering Window closes Nov. 9, with the window opening for Additional Test Materials on Jan. 3, 2022.
- For more important testing dates, refer to the [Multilingual Key Dates](#) or the [WIDA Illinois page](#).

#### **WIDA SCREENER FOR KINDERGARTEN**

WIDA has released a new screening tool for kindergarten. **Illinois will continue using WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten into 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 purchased from the WIDA Store.

#### **REMINDER! 2021 ACCESS SCORE VALIDATION**

The preliminary spring and fall ACCESS results will be released on Nov. 8. The preliminary file will include all test results, including the incomplete and split records. Districts should also be working to correct their Unassigned ACCESS scores in SIS->Reports->Bilingual->Unassigned Test Results. Validation will continue until Nov. 19.

- [Pre-Testing: Technology Coordinator Support for Test Administrators: 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9](#)
- [Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators: 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16](#)
- [During Testing: Managing Students in WIDA AMS \(Online\): 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18](#)
- [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators: 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23](#)

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.

Can't make it? 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.

#### **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.

## **Opportunities and Resources**

#### **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](#).

#### **NEW! ARABIC-SPEAKING 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 Ms. Valencia, VIT Program coordinator, at [cvalenci@isbe.net](mailto:cvalenci@isbe.net) to learn more about host district responsibilities and to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding.

#### **VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS**

Claudia Valencia, ISBE's Visiting International Teachers (VIT) Program coordinator, presented at this year's Bilingual Directors' Meeting to give attendees a general overview of the VIT Program. New partnerships with non-governmental organizations in Mexico and Morocco will provide the opportunity for additional districts to

become partners and benefit from international teacher recruitment. Interested districts can contact Ms. Valencia at [cvalenci@isbe.net](mailto:cvalenci@isbe.net) to learn more about how to become a partner.

#### **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!

[isbe.net/multilingual](http://isbe.net/multilingual)



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