



Illinois
State Board of
Education

Multilingual Department

December 21, 2020

Announcements

The Multilingual department is genuinely grateful for all the work you do for our students, and we are honored to have a sense of your dedication and good work. This holiday season is unlike any other we have ever known. Yet, we wish for you that in some ways it may be in sharper focus and deeper purpose – just like many other holiday seasons you have known – filled with the wonder, hope and joy of all that is good in your life and in all that you hold dear.

Happy Holidays! - ISBE- Multilingual Department

[ACCESS Test for English Learners Pushed from Possible Start Date of Jan. 4 To No Sooner Than March 15](#)

...The original administration window for the ACCESS test, which measures the proficiency of English Learners in reading, writing, speaking and listening, would have allowed schools to begin testing as early as Jan. 4. ISBE's action today ensures no student will take a federally required assessment, including ACCESS, until March 15 at the earliest. For more information, [click here](#).

[FY 2021 EL - Title III Immigrant Student Education Program \(ISEP\) Now Available in IWAS](#)

Applications for the EL - Title III Immigrant Student Education Program are now available through IWAS for school year 2020-2021 (FY 2021). [The list of eligible and non-eligible school districts that have submitted an Intent to Apply for the FY21 Immigrant Student Education Program grant is now posted on the Multilingual Department's website](#). Under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), eligibility and funding for the Title III Immigrant Student Education Program grant must be based on the total current year enrollment of immigrant students in the district and non-public schools within the district's boundary. All eligible applicants must create and apply through the IWAS system. To create an application, select "Year: 2021" and choose "Create Application." If a checkbox appears the applicant must select "Yes" before creating an application. Districts with carry over funds from last fiscal year will need to create an FY 2021 application to use the carryover funds.

Note: The title of this grant application has changed this year, so please make sure that you are given access authorization from your administrator to create the application. You will need to request authorization in IWAS to the EL – Title III Immigrant Student Education Program system. Your superintendent will then need to approve your access.

Due Date: To ensure a September 1, 2020, start date, complete and submit the application to ISBE by January 15, 2021.

For more information, including expenditure requirements, [click here](#).

ISBE-Sponsored Workshops

FREE UPCOMING SY21 WIDA WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS- [More Information & Register Here!](#)

Webinars

TOPIC	DATE	LOCATION
Uncovering & Leveraging Students Home Literacies in the Classroom	Start Date: January 19, 2021 Online Meeting: March 30, 2021	ICMEE eWorkshop
Attending to Equity in Through Instruction in the Bilingual Classroom	Start Date: January 28, 2021 Webinar 1: February 4, 2021 Webinar 2: February 11, 2021 Webinar 3: February 18, 2021	Webinar Series
Learning Through Two Languages for School Leaders	Start Date: May 1, 2021 Online Meeting: May 14, 2021	ICMEE eWorkshop
Considerations When Education Bilingual Learners with Identified Learning Disabilities	Start Date: May 1, 2021 Online Meeting: May 14, 2021	ICMEE eWorkshop

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 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

New 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 (ECE) settings. Provided through Early Childhood Professional Learning (ECPL) and ISBE, the early care and education community in Illinois has [free access](#). 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.

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

Provisional ELs and ACCESS Testing

Provisional ELs (i.e., new ELs identified by the Provisional Screener but not a standard EL screener) should not participate in ACCESS testing until they qualify for services with a standard screening. If the standard screening occurs on January 4, 2021 or later, participation in ACCESS for 2020-2021 is optional.

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 [click here](#) for current, weekly announcements. Check out Multilingual's [Key Dates](#) for a third resource for timelines!

Revised Guidance on Completion of English Learner Record of Provisionally Identified Students

Previously, guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education Multilingual Department instructed districts to not complete English Learner (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. However, ISBE is making a substantial change 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

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 are free and open to anyone and 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

The WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition: Kindergarten – Grade 12 will be available **December 18, 2020**. This updated, comprehensive edition is centered on equity and fosters the assets, contributions, and potential of multilingual learners. Upon release, the 2020 Edition will be available as a downloadable PDF document on the [English Language Development Standards](#) webpage. Printed copies will be available for purchase in the [WIDA Store](#). To find the latest updates, resources and upcoming learning opportunities visit the [2020 Vision for Standards](#) webpage.

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](#).

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

ESSA/ Multilingual Illinois Conference- IRC (Virtual)

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

National Association of English Learner Program
Administrators Virtual Conference

More information and registration [click here.](#)

*Edited 12/22/20: (FY 2021 EL - Title III Immigrant Student Education Program (ISEP))