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

AUGUST 2021

Announcements

2021 ACCESS AND SEAL OF BILITERACY FAQ

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. Please email Seal of Biliteracy questions to biliteracy@isbe.net.

Workshops

IRC-ISBE FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

NEW! 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.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE: FRAMING SERVICES FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

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](#).

WIDA-ISBE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

NEW! 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.

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 and ISBE Go. [here](#) for a description of recent eLearning resources that are available, FAQs, and instructions for creating a user account for WIDA Early Years eLearning.

Screening and Testing

2021 ACCESS SCORE VALIDATION

ACCESS CORRECTIONS

Provisional Spring 2021 ACCESS Scores are now available in the Student Information System (SIS) to begin the validation process. These scores reflect only complete files that Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) scored. Incomplete domains or split records (two records for same student but one contains one to three domains, the other contains the remaining domain) are not included in this provisional file. 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.

REMINDER! REDESIGNED WIDA SECURE PORTAL TAKES EFFECT SEPT. 1

Learn all about the [Redesigned WIDA Secure Portal](#), including what's changing, when it's changing, and what you need to know to prepare. Plus, you will get a sneak peek at the redesigned portal so you will know how to find the training, professional learning, and resources that are important and relevant to you.

2021-22 ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATIONS MANUAL

The [Accessibility and Accomodations 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.

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.

ACCESS SCORE REPORT INTERPRETATION RESOURCES

Now that the spring assessment window has passed and data is becoming available to those who have already tested, WIDA would like to remind districts of the many resources for practitioners and parents to understand what the results mean regarding a student's progress in English.

- Parent Communication: [ACCESS for ELLs Parent Letters](#), now available in the same 47 languages as the ACCESS Individual Student Report (ISR), provide general information about the ACCESS assessment and are meant to be provided to parents or guardians alongside the ISR. The letters are available in Word format so that they can be customized at the local level as desired with local test administration information and state or district policy.
- Parent Communication: [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#), available in 42 languages, helps explain ACCESS

ACCESS corrections are now active in SIS. The last day to make corrections is Dec. 21.

2021-22 WIDA Q&A WEBINAR SCHEDULE

The 2021-22 [WIDA Q&A webinar schedule](#) has been posted in the WIDA Secure Portal Download Library. WIDA's Q&A webinars:

- Support the information in the ACCESS for English Learners WIDA Screener training courses.
- Provide an opportunity for you to ask questions directly to DRC and WIDA experts.
- Include a technical series specifically for your information technology partners.

See the full schedule for webinar dates, times, topics, links, and intended audiences. All WIDA Q&A webinars will be recorded. Recordings will be available in the WIDA Secure Portal approximately one week after the presentation.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WIDA ELD STANDARDS FRAMEWORK, 2020 EDITION, AT THE

Ten sessions focused on the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards Framework, 2020 Edition, will be offered at the 2021 WIDA eConference on Oct. 14. The eConference is designed for educators of K-12 multilingual learners. Sessions will be presented by both WIDA staff and educators from the field and include topics such as "WIDA ELD Standard 1, Language for Social and Instructional Purposes: Centering the Personal as a Foundation to the Academic" and "A Discussion Among Teacher Leaders: Planning for Implementation of the WIDA ELD Standards Framework." Visit the 2021 [WIDA eConference](#) website for the full conference schedule and session descriptions. Register now to secure your place before rates increase on Sept. 1.

Don't miss this month's 2021 WIDA eConference registration giveaway! Head over to Twitter and [Facebook](#) to learn how you can win.

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 DRC after this review closes. Final results, including corrections that require rescore 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.

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.

in 13 languages, helps explain ACCESS scores and the ISR to families.

- Educators: [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) provide an overview of the various types of score reports. These documents explain how scores are calculated, and how you can use proficiency level and scale scores to support your students' language growth.
- Educators: [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS Scores and Reports](#) pages are where you can find sample score reports and additional information about ACCESS scores.

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](#).

ERIKA SANCHEZ VIRTUAL VISIT SCHEDULED SEPT. 16

Round Lake Area Schools, the Round Lake Area Public Library, and the College of Lake County invite people from across the state to read *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, a book written by Erika Sanchez, and to join the conversation with her regarding the themes she explores at this [virtual event](#) at **6 p.m. Sept. 16**.

A nominee for the National Book Awards, the story is part mystery, part love story, part inner quest. In *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, the vibrant teen protagonist struggles to prove who she is not, and in that journey, discovers who she is – stronger, braver, more worthy of loving and living than she ever imagined.

Check out the [flyer](#) for more information. Contact Rodolfo Ruiz-Velasco at ruijvelasco@clcillinois.edu if you have questions regarding the event.

The image shows the book cover of "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" by Erika L. Sánchez on the left. The book features a woman with long dark hair in a braid, wearing a red top. A circular badge on the cover indicates it is a "NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST". To the right is a promotional graphic for the virtual event. It features the text "College of Lake County" with the tagline "Connect to Your Future", followed by "Proudly Presents: ERIKA L. SÁNCHEZ VIRTUAL EVENT". Below this, it says "A CONVERSATION ABOUT HER BOOK 'I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter'". A QR code is provided for registration. The event date is listed as "FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 6PM". Logos for the College of Lake County, Round Lake Area Schools, and Round Lake Area Public Library are included.

[isbe.net/multilingual](#)



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