



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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Announcements

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

NEW! SY22 SEAL OF BILITERACY APPLICATION DUE OCT. 1

The school year 2022 application for the **Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy program** for nonpublic schools is now available. The application is due by **Oct. 1**. All schools that are interested in participating in the Seal of Biliteracy program must apply every school year. You may find the application materials on the [Seal of Biliteracy webpage](#) under the blue bar that states "Nonpublic Schools Only." The application includes a PDF form as well as an Excel file that is titled "Nonpublic Projection Report." The projection report is an estimate of the number of awards and target languages that the school is anticipating awarding for the school year. A representative from each participating school also must watch the [mandatory training webinar](#). For additional information about the program, please see this [FAQ document](#). Please direct any questions about the program to biliteracy@isbe.net.

NEW! BILINGUAL AND ESL MATRIX

The new and improved PreK-12 Bilingual and 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.

NEW! BILINGUAL DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

Please [sign up](#) for the Bilingual Directors Conference that will be held Oct. 4-8 in Rosemont.

NEW! 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.

Workshops

REMINDER! 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.

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](#).

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

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 <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.

Screening and Testing

REMINDER! 2021 ACCESS SCORE VALIDATION

Provisional Spring 2021 ACCESS Scores are now available in the Student Information System (SIS) to be validated. These scores reflect only complete files that 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. Validation will continue until Nov. 19.

2021 WIDA ECONFERENCE SOLD OUT

The 2021 WIDA eConference has reached capacity and registration is now closed. Individuals interested in attending may join the waitlist and will be contacted if space becomes available. The waitlist and additional conference information are available on the [2021 eConference](#) website.

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 rescoring or merging records, will be available digitally Dec. 15 in the WIDA Assessment

NEW! STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXITED THROUGH 2021 ACCESS

SIS has used the 2020 ACCESS results in lieu of complete 2021 ACCESS results for EL designations for the 2021-22 school year. Districts should not change the reclassified students' EL status to "NO" in their local student management system until further notice. All 2021 ACCESS scores must be available to SIS before districts can apply them to students for reclassification. 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.

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.

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.

Management System. They will be posted in SIS by Jan. 19, 2022. Printed reports will be sent Jan. 6, 2022.

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 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](#).

ICTFL FALL CONFERENCE

The Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages offers a Fall Conference each October to serve Illinois's many K-16 world language educators. This year's virtual conference, "A Brave New World: Reimagining Language Education," will be held Oct. 20-22. There are 11 professional development hours available, and there will be convenient evening sessions on Wednesday and Thursday and a daytime schedule on Friday. Sessions support teachers who are working to meet state initiatives, district curricular goals, and the differentiated needs of students while facing the challenges of teaching language during a pandemic. Topics include inclusivity and culturally responsive teaching, interactive Google and other tech tools, digital literacy, building student autonomy, portfolios, comprehensible input strategies, and benchmarking tools toward the Seal of Biliteracy. There is also a professional track for pre-service and practicing teachers that includes sessions on grants, social-emotional learning and mindfulness, leadership, and certification. To register or learn more, go to www.ictfl.org.

VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS ARRIVE

This fall ISBE welcomed more than 100 new visiting international teachers who will be placed in several K-12 classrooms in Illinois. A majority of the teachers come from Spain, which has been our partner the longest. This year, however, we welcomed our first visiting teacher from Mexico. On Saturday, Sept. 11, ISBE hosted its annual Visiting International Teacher program orientation. Topics covered during the orientation included U.S. culture, U.S. health care system, community resources, classroom management, and immigration matters. Pictured below are several of the visiting teachers who attended the orientation.



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