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

NOVEMBER 2021

English Learners/Bilingual Education

Announcements

REMINDER! FY 2022 EL - BILINGUAL SERVICE PLAN NOW AVAILABLE IN IWAS

The fiscal year 2022 EL - Bilingual Service Plan (BSP) application is now available in the electronic Grants Management System through the [ISBE Web Application Security \(IWAS\) system](#).

All school districts enrolling English Learners (ELs) in FY 2021 and listed with [fewer than 20 ELs](#), or listed with [20 or more ELs](#), must create and submit the [short or long version of BSP](#) through the IWAS system. Once you are in the system, create your application by selecting "Year: 2022" and choosing "Create Application." Some grants display a "Yes" checkbox that must be selected before the "Create Application" button appears.

Due Date: Please complete and submit your application by **Nov. 30**.

Please make sure that approval groups are properly assigned through IWAS in order to access the system and submit your application. Technical assistance pertaining to items not covered by the instructions link in IWAS may be obtained by contacting your [program consultant](#).

REMINDER! 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.

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.

Workshops

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](#).

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.

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.

DOWNLOAD YOUR WIDA CERTIFICATION HISTORY

WIDA Secure Portal users now have the option to download their entire certification history, which can then be printed or emailed to a coordinator or supervisor. Log in to the WIDA Secure Portal and go to [My Profile](#). Click **Export PDF** at the top of the Certifications table to see your entire assessment training history, followed by professional learning course completion.

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! 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.**

Screening and Testing

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.

2021-22 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.

2021 ACCESS PRELIMINARY RESULTS - NOVEMBER REVIEW

The ACCESS Preliminary Data Review, which included all results for school year 2021, closed on Nov. 19. ISBE sent ACCESS data corrections to Data Recognition Corp. (DRC). Results will be finalized, including corrections that require rescoring or merging records, and 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.

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! 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.

REMINDER! PREPARING FOR THE 2022 ACCESS FOR ELLS

- Students who were identified as an English Learners with the provisional screener last year (2020-21) and did not take the 2021 ACCESS or have missing 2021 ACCESS results must be screened with a prescribed screener.
 - 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 received a Pre-ID Label must be excused from 2022 ACCESS testing.
- For more important testing dates, refer to the [Multilingual Key Dates](#) or the [WIDA Illinois page](#).

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.

Other Opportunities and Resources

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 website based on the six elements from *Equitable Access to Educational Excellence: Framing Services for English Learners in Illinois*. The website has resources within each of these areas and can be found [here](#).

NEW RESEARCH REPORT EXAMINING LONG-TERM GROWTH TRAJECTORIES OF ELS WITH AND WITHOUT IEPs

WIDA was motivated by findings of a 2018 WIDA report pointing to large overlap between ELs with Individualized Education Program (IEP) designations and ELs who could be identified as long-term ELs to conduct a study to further focus on these dual-identified students. We grouped ELs by ever-IEP (those who were assigned an IEP at any point in their longitudinal record) and never-IEP status and compared these two subgroups' English language growth trajectories across time for 24 independent cohorts of ELs starting in Grades K-3 throughout 2006-11. Our findings show consistent trends of differential growth and reclassification rates for these two subgroups. Read more about this study in [Examining Growth at the Intersection of IEP and \(Long-Term\) EL Status](#) in the Resource Library of the WIDA website.

World Languages

Announcements

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!

Visiting International Teacher Program

Announcements

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 to learn more about how to become a partner.

NEW! ARABIC-SPEAKING VISITING INTERNATIONAL 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 to learn more about host district responsibilities and to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding.

Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

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 school year 2019-20 Seal of Biliteracy program and as a result other data in this report may not reflect usual trends.

The Multilingual Department is happy to announce that [ALTA exams](#) have been approved for the Seal of Biliteracy, allowing students to now use them to qualify for the Seal or Commendation toward Biliteracy. The ALTA exams cover 90-plus languages, many of which are new to this program. Many parents, community members, and district leaders have requested that these exams be added to our program to better reflect the multitude of languages spoken by our students across Illinois. Previously, students were required to build a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate proficiency in languages for which ISBE had not yet approved an assessment. We are hoping that the approval of the ALTA assessments will increase the number of awarded languages and student participation in the Seal of Biliteracy program across the state.

Screening and Testing

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 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.

Migrant Education Program

Announcements

MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The state Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program provides support to eligible migratory children. Migratory children have moved:

- From one district to another and one residence to another
- Within the past three years
- Due to economic necessity
- With a parent, spouse, or guardian who is a migratory agricultural worker or on their own as migratory agricultural workers

School districts can help the Migrant Education Program to identify migratory children in Illinois by using the referral link at <https://idrreferrals.net> or scanning the QR code below. The program will arrange for a certified migratory child recruiter to interview the family to determine eligibility.



isbe.net/multilingual**Illinois
State Board of
Education**

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