



*many*VOICES

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

APRIL 2022

English Learners/Bilingual Education

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE! Illinois Bilingual Parent Summit

The Illinois Bilingual Parent Summit will return as a hybrid event on **Saturday, May 7**, at the Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center in Oak Brook.

This annual gathering provides a rich mix of information about important issues for multilingual parents in our community. Illinois Resource Center expert speakers and panelists will present on such topics as pathways to academic success, parent engagement in schools, immigration issues, U.S. citizenship, bilingual education programs, community college services, effective parenting techniques, health care alternatives, and much more. This is also a wonderful opportunity to connect and build relationships with parents like you — we are stronger together. [Registration is now open!](#)

REMINDER! EL Data eGMS Ceiling Calculator

All English Learner (EL) data is due. Evidenced-Based Funding (EBF) EL information for **Transitional Bilingual Education and Transitional Program of Instruction** students must be entered by **4 p.m. April 15**. The information for all other EL students must be submitted by 4 p.m. April 29 for the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS) Ceiling Calculator. This is the Student EL data only, not EL Screener data. It is very important that this data is correctly submitted for all students marked EL in the Student Information System (SIS) as it will be used to calculate Title III Language Instruction Education Program and EBF funds for fiscal year 2023.

REMINDER! Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking applications for members in the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (IACBE). If you are interested in applying for consideration to be a member of IACBE, please send a letter of interest with your curriculum vitae/resume to multilingual@isbe.net by April 29. For more information on IACBE, visit the [IACBE webpage](#).

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. For more information, please email the Multilingual Department at multilingual@isbe.net.

REMINDER! Bilingual Education Endorsement

Visit the [Educator Licensure Resources](#) webpage to learn about the process to get a [Bilingual Education endorsement](#) or an [ESL endorsement](#).

Workshops

Leveraging Resources: Blending and Braiding Funds

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 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. The [presentation](#) used in the webinar is available for download.

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. Make sure to consider these dates as you plan for the school year. [Archived professional learning sessions](#) are also available.

WIDA-ISBE Free Professional Learning

WIDA offers [free professional learning](#) opportunities to Illinois educators with support from ISBE. 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. 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, visit wida.wisc.edu.

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

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

This half-day face-to-face workshop, which will be hosted by **Plainfield SD 202**, is designed for test administrators of the Kindergarten Screener. **WIDA Screener for Kindergarten** will be held in a morning and an afternoon session on **April 5** at **Plainfield Community Consolidated SD 202**, 15732 S. Howard Street, Plainfield, Illinois 60544.

A morning and an afternoon session of the same workshop will be hosted by **West Harvey-Dixmoor PSD 147** on **April 7** at **Rosa L. Parks Middle School**, 14700 Robey Avenue, Harvey, Illinois 60426.

The purpose of this workshop is for participants to work collaboratively to strengthen their understanding of how to administer and score the Kindergarten Screener by working with hand-on assessment materials to practice both handling the materials and scoring the different domains of the WIDA Kindergarten Screener. Participants will build interrater reliability using the WIDA Kindergarten Screener writing rubric. **Enrollment is now open**; go to the [ISBE Conference Signup System](#).

Secondary Grades and Writing with Multilingual Learners

This two-day face-to-face workshop is designed for secondary grade educators in social studies, science, English language arts (ELA); English language development specialists; and instructional coaches.

Secondary Grades and Writing with Multilingual Learners will be held **April 26-27** at **Proviso Math and Science Academy**, 8601 W. Roosevelt Road, Forest Park, IL 60130.

A morning and an afternoon session of the same workshop will be hosted by **Harlem UD 122** on **June 2-3** at **Harlem High School**, 1 Huskie Circle, Machesney Park, Illinois 61115.

The purpose of this workshop is to focus on writing instruction that supports the use of the Teaching and Learning Cycle as a way to empower multilingual writers, not only to produce successful academic writing, but more importantly, to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. The workshop aims to have students know how to leverage writing as a powerful tool to understand the world, express themselves effectively, learn from one another, and argue for things they believe in. This vision requires intentional language-focused instruction and is strengthened when it occurs through authentic writing tasks in the content areas. **Enrollment is now open**; go to the [ISBE Conference Signup System](#).

Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Elementary Grades

This two-day face-to-face workshop, which will be hosted by the **Illinois Educator Association**, is designed for elementary grade-level teachers, English language development specialists, and instructional coaches. **Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Elementary Grades** will be held **May 3-4** at **Springfield Professional Development Center**, 3440 Liberty Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

The purpose of this workshop is to support the use of the Teaching and Learning Cycle as a way to empower multilingual writers, not only to produce successful academic writing, but, more importantly, to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and different audiences. The workshop aims to have students know how to leverage writing as a powerful tool to understand the world, express themselves effectively, learn from one another, and argue for the things they believe in. This vision requires intentional language-focused instruction and is strengthened when it occurs through authentic writing tasks in the content areas.

intentional, language-focused instruction and is strengthened when it occurs through authentic writing tasks in the content areas. **Enrollment is now open**; go to the [ISBE Conference Signup System](#).

Opportunities for Spanish Teachers

The Spanish Ministry of Education is offering free virtual workshops for teachers of Spanish. These workshops are hosted by universities in Spain and cover a range of topics that will help you develop your skills in the classroom. Please visit the following links for more information and to register!

- Workshops pamphlet: [Talleres de universidades](#)
- Additional information: [Cursos de verano](#)

Screening and Testing

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten requires that state rules and data systems be updated before districts will be able to implement it. ***Illinois will continue using WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten through this school year.*** The inclusion into rules is currently at midstream. Implementation will be announced next year with district access anticipated sometime in August. 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. A webinar that previews the WIDA Kindergarten Screener that is to be adopted is available on the [WIDA Secure Portal](#). Once in the portal, click “Professional Learning” > Click on “Webinars” in title bar > Scroll to “Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators” for the webinar.

Again, the WIDA MODEL for Kindergarten will continue to be used through this school year (2021-22). The MODEL will remain available for use as part of the transition to the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten through the 2022-23 school year. ***The MODEL will then be retired at the end of the 2022-23 school year,*** with the WIDA Screener being the only prescribed kindergarten screener.

2022 ACCESS for ELLs

- The 2022 ACCESS Corrections window is open on SIS. This is located in the blue sidebar at Assessment > Correction > ACCESS. Student demographic data and reasons for students not tested are to be recorded in this area.
- Anticipated release of the preliminary data file for the 2022 ACCESS results for validation through SIS will be on or around May 6. Districts can then rectify unassigned scoring records and match students to those scores. This validation window will close on May 27.

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.

NEW! Call for WIDA Fellows Nominations

Calling all exemplary educators! Nominations are open for the fourth class of WIDA Fellows. In establishing these fellowships, WIDA acknowledges the invaluable role teachers have in collaboration with professional development and research partners advancing the field of education. All nominees must be exceptional teachers of bilingual and/or multilingual learners.

Learn more about the program, nomination process, and the form on the [WIDA Fellows](#) webpage. All nominations are due by **April 30**. No self-nominations, please.

NEW! Illinois Has Member on WIDA Local Education Agency Advisory Committee

Congratulations to Elise McNeff from Byron CUSD 226; she will be representing Illinois on the WIDA Local Education Agency (LEA) Advisory Committee! Elise will be working with other member states' LEA representatives and WIDA staff to advise and provide feedback on the work and products that WIDA develops. The Advisory Committee reports to the Consortium in SEA quarterly meetings and Executive Board meetings. Again, congrats and thank you, Elise, for serving on this important committee. Also, thank you to those of you who applied to serve.

Other Opportunities and Resources

REMINDER! U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs Policy Letter

Regarding English Learners with Special Education Needs

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released a Policy Letter in November that answers two questions:

1. "Does IDEA require language development goals be included in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) if that student is an English Learner?"
2. "If states and districts do not have the means to staff their schools with educators who are dually certified in special education and English language development, what are the recommended best practices that they can use to ensure they provide appropriate instruction and services to English Learners with disabilities?"

Please see the full [OSEP Policy Letter 21-03 that was sent to Timothy Boals](#), founder and director of WIDA, for the answers.

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.

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 a large overlap between ELs with 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

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. For more information, visit our [World Languages](#) webpage.

Opportunities for Spanish Teachers

The Spanish Ministry of Education is offering free virtual workshops for teachers of Spanish. These workshops are hosted by universities in Spain and cover a range of topics that will help you develop your skills in the classroom. Please visit the following links for more information and to register.

- Workshops pamphlet: [Talleres de universidades](#)
- Additional information: [Cursos de verano](#)

Visiting International Teacher Program

NEW! Expanding Recruitment for VIT With a Visit from the Polish Ministry of Education!

Staff from ISBE's Multilingual Department and representatives from the Polish government visited Clearmont Elementary's Polish-English Dual Language Program. The purpose of the visit also focused on exploring a partnership between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Poland and ISBE to expand recruitment for our Visiting International Teacher Program. More information regarding the Visiting International Teacher Program can be found on our [website](#). Districts that are interested in hosting an international teacher can contact our team via email at exchangeteachers@isbe.net for more information.



Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy

ISBE Releases 2021 ACCESS and Seal of Biliteracy FAQ Document

ISBE 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

Migrant Education Program

The state Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program provides support to eligible migrant children. Migrant 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 migrant agricultural worker or on their own as migrant agricultural workers

School districts can help the Migrant Education Program to identify migrant children in Illinois by using the [referral link](#) or scanning the QR code below. The program will arrange for a certified migrant child recruiter to interview the family to determine eligibility.



isbe.net/multilingual



**Illinois
State Board of
Education**



The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

Click [here](#) to change your Subscription Preferences. Click [here](#) to unsubscribe.