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

MARCH 2023

English Learners/Bilingual Education

Announcements

NEW! FY 2024 EL-Bilingual Service Plan
The Fiscal Year 2024 Consolidated District Plan (CDP) is now available in the electronic Grant Management System through the ISBE Web Application Security system. Please note that the Bilingual Service Plan (BSP) is now part of the CDP.

Any school district that has at least one English learner (EL) student must complete the BSP portion of the CDP. The number of EL students has been calculated and prepopulated in the CDP to guide districts to which section of the BSP they need to complete.

Although the FY 2024 BSP has been made available as part of the CDP, some districts have not submitted their FY 2023 BSP. Such districts will experience a delay in the approval of their FY 2024 CDP.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your assigned consultant or multilingual@isbe.net.

REMINDER! FY 2023 Title III Language Instruction Educational Program
All Title III LIEP districts' carryover funds from FY 2022 are now loaded and available to districts with FY 2023 LIEP budgets.

- Districts with an approved FY 2023 Title III LIEP must submit a budget amendment to rebudget any carryover funds.
- Districts that do not have their budget approved can ask their assigned consultant to send their application back so they can add the carryover funds to their FY 2023 Title III LIEP budget.
- Districts whose budget was returned for correction must add the carryover funds to the budget before resubmitting it for further review.

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The budget amendment deadline is **July 31, 2023**, but the funds can only be used retroactive to the day the amendment was received. Your ability to access the carryover funds will depend on how quickly your amendment is accepted. Please follow the instructions on how to create your amendment.

Please reach out to your district's assigned principal consultant if you have any questions.

NOTE! The Use of 'Other' as a Language in SIS

Districts are reminded that they should not have any students with a language listed as "Other" in the Student Information System (SIS). Please review your SIS data to verify that no students have "Other" for a language other than English. Please refer to this list of language codes as you are entering data. If a student's language is not on this list, please contact multilingual@isbe.net and we will work with SIS to add that language.

Pre K-12 Bilingual and ESL Matrix

The PreK-12 Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) Matrix is currently under dual department revision; a modified version will be posted on the Multilingual webpage as soon as possible.

Bilingual Parent Summit Registration Now Open

We are pleased to inform you that registration for the Bilingual Parent Summit is now available on the Illinois Resource Center website. The registration fee is $30 per person with Visa/Mastercard and purchase order payment options. Registration deadline is April 28.

Workshops

Pedagogia con Respeto: Pairing Languages and Standards to Advance Student Learning

An in-person, two-day workshop is scheduled for **March 15-16**. It will be hosted by **Maywood/Melrose Park School District**, 906 Walton Street, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160.

It is designed for Spanish/English bilingual K-12 educators, administrators, and support staff with some or little experience using the WIDA Spanish Language Development Standards. **This workshop will be delivered primarily in Spanish.**

The purpose of this two-day bilingual workshop, which will use an interactive and hands-on approach, is to connect the theoretical and pedagogical foundations of the WIDA Language Development Standards for Spanish and English to instruction and assessment in the bilingual classroom. Participants will reflect on current practice to determine ways to leverage the WIDA standards and related tools, such as Los descriptores Podemos and Can Do Descriptors, to inform curriculum design, instruction, and assessment. Enrollment is now open; go to the ISBE Conference Signup System**.**

Early Childhood Resources

Looking for professional development related to preschool English learners? ISBE continues to partner with The Center: Early Childhood Professional Learning and WIDA Early Years to provide early childhood educators and administrators with live and recorded webinars; Administrator Academies; and self-paced, on-demand courses and downloadable resources. That's right -- free online professional learning resources at your fingertips! ISBE and/or Gateways credit is available.

For more information and to register for live sessions and access on-demand courses, visit The Center: Early Childhood Professional Learning. Questions? Contact ec@cntrmail.org.

Opportunities for Spanish Teachers

The Spanish Ministry of Education is offering free virtual workshops for teachers of Spanish and teachers of dual and immersion programs. These workshops cover a range of topics that will help you develop your skills in the classroom. Please visit Actualidad for more information and to register!

- Workshops pamphlet: Talleres de universidades
- Additional information: Cursos de verano

Professional Learning Opportunity Links

- IRC free professional learning opportunities
- WIDA free professional learning opportunities

Resources and Strategies for Teaching Spanish

Resources and Strategies for Teaching Spanish, organized by the Department of Education of the Embassy of Spain in the United States in collaboration with the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures of the University of Chicago, will be held from **9 a.m.-5 p.m. April 1** in Cobb Hall at the University of Chicago. Program registration includes a free lunch and professional development hours certified by ISBE. There is limited seating, so register early!

Screening and Testing

Districts Should be Transitioning to the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten was activated on Aug. 3 for districts to begin the self-paced training and subsequent download of the screener. The training and free download of the screening instrument are posted in the WIDA Secure Portal. Preprinted copies of the new screener may then be purchased from the WIDA Store by district WIDA account coordinators or district test coordinators.

In addition to the training, a webinar that previews the WIDA Kindergarten Screener that is to be adopted is currently available on the WIDA Secure Portal. Once in the portal, click "Professional Learning" and then "Webinars" in the title bar. Scroll to "Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators" for the webinar.

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten assesses English levels of potential ELs entering kindergarten and the first semester of Grade 1. Students who score below a 5.0 on the oral (listening, speaking) composite for the first semester of kindergarten or 5.0 on the overall (all four domains) composite for the second semester of kindergarten or first semester of Grade 1 will be eligible for language support services.

Districts should be transitioning to the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten as we start the second half of the 2022-23 school year. **The WIDA MODEL will then be retired at the end of the 2022-23 school year**, with the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten being the only prescribed kindergarten screener.

REMINDER! Alternate ACCESS Field Test

The Alternate ACCESS field test window was opened on Feb. 14 and will continue through **April 17**. This is to measure test items that will be included in the operational Alternate ACCESS the following year (2023-24). The reason for the field test is to prevent a longer single administration by breaking it into two tasks: the regular administration of the Alternate ACCESS (this window closed Feb. 28) and the field test (currently open). The population that the Alternate ACCESS is administered to is very small, so full participation is respectfully requested to provide the best results for the final products that will come out to benefit our most vulnerable dually identified learners. The products include:

- Two new separate test forms of the Alternate ACCESS
- The addition of an Alternate ACCESS for Kindergarten
- The addition of an Alternate Screener

More details regarding the Alternate ACCESS field test administration can be found on the field test webpage.

Look for Candoo the field test dog on field test materials that should have arrived in your district if you have administered the Alternate ACCESS to your students during the regular assessment window mentioned above.

An Alternate ACCESS Field Test email will be sent March 10 to designated site contacts to share return material instructions. All field test emails will include an image of Candoo, our field test dog.

Test Monitoring Application Available

The Test Monitoring Application (TMA) has been made available in WIDA AMS for the 2022-23 screener administration. The TMA will be available for the 2022-23 ACCESS for ELLs administration at the start of your test session setup window. Please note the following:

- The TMA is set to “None” by default, so the district or school test coordinator must change the setting to “Required” for the test session to enable it. This is done in WIDA AMS under Test Management > Manage Test Sessions.
- Watch the recording of the Welcome Back: What’s New in 2022? Q&A webinar or review the WIDA AMS User Guide for an in-depth overview of the TMA.

English Language Development Standards Framework (2020 Edition) Ready for Implementation

The 2020 edition of the English Language Development (ELD) Standards replaces the 2012 Amplified ELD Standards that was in rules. Implementation of the framework at the local level should begin this year. Kristopher Stewart from WIDA presented on the standards and their application at the State Bilingual Directors Meeting. A PDF copy of the framework can be downloaded from the WIDA webpage in the Resource Library. Additional professional development is available from WIDA through the WIDA Secure Portal and the Multilingual District Resources webpage under the “Professional Development” dropdown. The 2020 framework will be reflected in the ACCESS refresh in 2025-26.

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.

Seal of Biliteracy

Seal of Biliteracy Applications

Applications for participation in the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy are due by **Oct. 1** every school year. If your school would still like to administer the Seal at graduation but didn’t apply this year, you can still complete an application but must *additionally* send confirmation to biliteracy@isbe.net. This confirmation email must include assurance that the coordinator of the program has watched the SY 2022-23 webinar. It must also include a link to your school’s website to indicate where the program is publicized.

Identify Potential Recipients

Do you have former EL students who have maintained their home language and received a 4.8 on the ACCESS test? They may be eligible for the Seal. Look into proficiency options for the home languages of your EL students and help increase equity of access to this distinction. Look for underclassmen who are close to meeting their ACCESS benchmark and have potential to reach Seal qualifications before graduation.

Publicize Your Program

Do your students and their parents know about the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and that it counts as college credit at public universities in Illinois? Reach out to parents, Bilingual Parent Advisory Committees, and your World Languages Department, and discuss the opportunity at college/career meetings with your students. Post information clearly on your website to make the program easily identifiable and accessible. ISBE has recently created one-pagers with at-a-glance information about the program. These can be found in the Resources section of our Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy webpage. Feel free to distribute to parents, teachers, and students, use on your website, etc.

Migrant Education Program

Migrant Children Services

Please help us to locate migrant children who may be eligible for services of the state Title I, Part C, Migrant Education Program. 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 ISBE and the Migrant Education Program to identify migrant children in Illinois by using the MEP Referral System or scanning the QR code below. Districts may refer families who are potentially eligible for the program. The program will arrange for a certified migrant child recruiter to interview the family to determine eligibility.

Migrant Student Records Exchange

The Migrant Student Records Exchange Initiative is a federal database, which was established under Title I, Part C of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The mission of Migrant Student Records Exchange (MSIX) is to ensure the appropriate enrollment, placement, and accrual of credits for children of migrant agricultural workers nationwide. MSIX allows states to share educational and health information of migrant children who travel from state to state and who, as a result, have student records in multiple states' information systems. It works in concert with the existing migrant student information systems that states use to manage their migrant data.

The ISBE Multilingual Department manages access to MSIX in Illinois. If your district enrolls children of migrant agricultural workers and you would like more information about MSIX, please contact us at migrant@isbe.net.

World Languages

Ethnic Language Schools

Ethnic Language Schools have moved over to the Multilingual Department. Information regarding Ethnic Language Schools can be found on the World Languages webpage.

What is an Ethnic Language School?

An Ethnic Language School is a part-time private program that teaches the language of a particular ethnic group as well as the culture, geography, history, and other aspects of the culture of that ethnic group. An Ethnic Language School may seek approval to show that the language instruction offered is equivalent in content, rigor, etc., to world language instruction offered at a public high school.

What are the requirements for approval?

- A minimum of 120 hours per student of instruction in language (and culture) is required for this approval.
- A completed SY 2022-23 application for Ethnic School Foreign Language Program Approval.

How do I complete the application?

A step-by-step presentation is available under the Resources blue bar on the World Languages page. This presentation is available in English, Bulgarian, Chinese, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Telugu, and Ukrainian.

When is the application due?

Applications were due **Nov. 1, 2022,** and were to be submitted to Jay Reinoso at jreinoso@isbe.net. Please contact Mr. Reinoso if you wish to receive approval for the 2022-23 school year but missed the application deadline.

Please forward any questions regarding Ethnic Language Schools to Jay Reinoso at jreinoso@isbe.net. A list of approved schools for SY 2021-22 is available on the World Languages page under the Ethnic Language Schools blue bar. If you are aware of a school that is not on this list, please forward them this information. Thank you for your support of ethnic language schools and language acquisition.

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Illinois State Board of Education

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