



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

JUNE 2023

August 2023

## English Learners/Bilingual Education Announcements

### **Bilingual Program Directors Meeting Registration Now Open!**

The Bilingual Program Directors Meeting is **Sept. 26-28**. We encourage administrators and representatives from Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and charter schools serving English learners (ELs) to attend.

[Bilingual Program Directors Meeting - 245501010](#)

The registration deadline is Sept. 15.

#### **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. Refer to this list of [language codes](#) as you are entering data. If a student's language is not on this list, you can contact [multilingual@isbe.net](mailto:multilingual@isbe.net) and we will work with SIS to add that language.

#### **Bilingual and English as a Second Language Matrix**

The updated PreK-12 Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) Matrix is now posted on the [Multilingual webpage](#). Learn more about which endorsement combinations can be used for teaching bilingual and ESL classes in Illinois.

#### **NEW: OELA Newcomers Tool Kit**

The Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) just released an updated [Newcomer Toolkit](#) to assist districts and schools with supporting newcomer students.

#### **IMPORTANT!**

#### **Title III Carryover Funds!**

**Title III Language Instruction Education Program (LIEP) and Title III Immigrant Student Education Program (ISEP)** -- Please take note that Title III carryover funds from the fiscal year 2022 LIEP and ISEP must be used by Aug. 31 by being either claimed or obligated. A district will forfeit the difference between its final spending and its

carryover monies from FY 2022 if the final expenditure is smaller. Your FY 2023 Title III LIEP and ISEP budget allotment page contains information regarding the carryover amount for your district.

**Title III Bilingual Education Award (BEA)** – This grant is a one-time award that must be used up or obligated by Aug. 31. Funds from the FY 2023 BEA that were not used cannot be carried over to the FY 2024 BEA.

## **FY 2023 Grant Periodic Report for Title III programs**

If your district is a recipient of one or more of the Title III grants below in FY 2022 and/or FY 2023, you are required to submit your FY 2023 annual Grant Periodic Report (GPR) to ISBE for each of the grants you received in FY 2022 and/or FY 2023.

- Title III Language Instruction Educational Program
- Title III Immigrant Student Education Program
- Title III Bilingual Education Award

Please note that you **must complete and upload the corresponding template to the FY 2023 Grant Periodic Report. Your FY 2023 GPR will not be considered for approval without this template.** To access the templates and for further instruction, please see the **Program Specific Information on the [ISBE Grant Periodic Reporting webpage](#).**

You may also contact the Multilingual/Language Development Department at [Multilingual@isbe.net](mailto:Multilingual@isbe.net) or 312-814-3850 if you have any questions or need any assistance.

## **REPORTING TOOLS**

### **ANNUAL GRANT PERIODIC REPORT FOR TITLE III (LIEP, ISEP, AND BEA)**

The GPR templates for Period 2 of FY 2022 and Period 1 of FY 2023 LIEP; ISEP, if applicable; and BEA, if applicable, grants are now ready for use. Please read the following carefully.

There are two tabs on each GPR template. Templates are found in the Reporting Tools section under Title III dropdown on the [Grant Periodic Reporting webpage](#).

- One tab is for reporting on just Period 2 of FY 2022 for July 1 to Aug. 31, 2022. This period was not available to be reported in IWAS until now.
- The second tab is for reporting Period 1 activities of FY 2023 from Sept. 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.
- Both tabs must be completed, as applicable to your district, to be approved

## **ISBE-Sponsored WIDA Professional Development**

WIDA self-paced workshops are available until the end of August. Log in to your WIDA Portal to register for the self-paced workshops. If you do not have a WIDA Portal, please contact [sserrano@isbe.net](mailto:sserrano@isbe.net).

WIDA FY 24 Professional Development Facilitated Virtual Workshops are available. Click [here](#) to register.

## **Literacy Squared Cohort 9**

**Literacy Squared®** is a comprehensive biliteracy model that has been designed to accelerate the development of biliteracy among children who speak Spanish and English and attend schools in the United States. The Literacy Squared model is both research-based and research-tested. Its conceptual framework draws on research positing that a dire need exists for a new theory about literacy instruction for bilingual children (Bernhardt, 2003; Grant & Wong, 2003) and that second language literacy acquisition is greatly enhanced if learners are literate in their first language (August & Shanahan, 2006). Please see [Literacy Squared](#) for more information.

This Professional development opportunity is open to qualified K-5 educators and administrators looking to build more in-depth knowledge of the Comprehensive Biliteracy Model. The dates below are finalized; please plan accordingly. **FREE! (At least two members from your team must register together!)**

Click [here](#) for the FY 2024 application.

All in-person meetings will take place in Kildare SD (Address to be determine)

The dates and topics will be:

DATE	TIME	TOPIC
Sept. 21-22, 2023 (IN-PERSON, five hours/day)	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Sept. 21: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Literacy Squared</li> <li>Creating Trajectories toward Biliteracy</li> </ul> Sept. 22: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oracy – Part 1</li> <li>Lotta Lara – Part 1</li> </ul>
Nov. 30- Dec. 1, 2023 (IN-PERSON, five hours/day)	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Nov. 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debrief Trajectory Assignments and Lotta Lara Implementation</li> <li>Lotta Lara – Part 2</li> </ul> Dec. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dictado – Part 1</li> </ul>
Feb. 8-9, 2024 (VIRTUAL, four hours/day)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Feb. 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debrief the Dictado Assignment</li> <li>Teaching Approaches for Reading and Writing</li> <li>The Dictado – Part 2</li> </ul> February 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting Language Environments - Paired Literacy</li> <li>Demonstration Lesson</li> </ul>
March 7-8, 2024 (VIRTUAL, four hours/day)	8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	March 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Phonics</li> <li>Así se dice</li> </ul> March 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting Oracy to Writing</li> </ul>
April 25-26, 2024 (IN-PERSON, five hours/day)	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.	April 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing Rubric Training Scoring of Writing Samples</li> <li>Using Writing Samples to Identify Teaching Points</li> </ul> April 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership/Implementation of Literacy Squared</li> </ul>

## Early Childhood Resources

*Free online professional learning resources are at your fingertips!*

ISBE continues to partner with The Center: Early Childhood Professional Learning and WIDA to provide early childhood educators and administrators with live and recorded webinars; Administrator Academies; self-paced, on-demand courses; and downloadable resources. ISBE and/or Gateways credits are available. Visit [The Center: Early Childhood Professional Learning](#) for more information and to register for live sessions.

WIDA Early Years resources for preschool-age children have been available at WIDA's new [Teaching in PreK-3](#) webpage since July 1.

WIDA will offer two new preK-3 resources beginning **Sept. 1**.

1. *Exploring the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions* will introduce educators to the new WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions. Educators will have an opportunity to build their knowledge and understanding of the Essential Actions and to reflect on their own ideologies, practices, and settings. Access to the course will require a WIDA Secure Portal account. Contact [assessment@isbe.net](mailto:assessment@isbe.net) for information about how to set up a WIDA Secure Portal account and access this and other WIDA self-paced offerings.
2. *Are We Ready?* will support preK-3 educators to promote and provide equitable transitions for multilingual children and their families as they move through preK-3. This resource will be available on the WIDA website.

Questions? Contact [ec@cntrmail.org](mailto:ec@cntrmail.org).

### Opportunities for Spanish Teachers

The Spanish Ministry of Education is offering free virtual workshops for teachers of Spanish 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](#)

## Screening and Testing

### WIDA Screener for Kindergarten

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten is now the only recognized English screener to be used for identifying potential English learner students entering kindergarten or first semester first grade for the 2023-24 school year moving forward. Any new administration of the WIDA MODEL K will not be recognized as a valid screener.

The WIDA Screener for Kindergarten 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 is 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.

### Preliminary Results of the 2023 ACCESS for ELLs

Results for ACCESS for ELLs, Illinois' English language development assessment, are in the Student Information System (SIS) and can be accessed through IWAS. These scores may be used to make placement and programming

decisions for the 2023-24 school year. Some records are “split.” ( A writing score was not matched with the rest of the domains.) However, they still provide vital information on the progress of a district’s students in acquiring English. Those split records will be merged in the final report that will be available in SIS in the first part of August.

### Test Security Change for DRC Insight

On **June 30**, Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) began implementing a security enhancement that may affect some sites and require local IT staff to change the way they update the DRC INSIGHT Secure Browser software on testing devices. Moving forward, only admin-level users will be allowed to update the DRC INSIGHT Secure Browser on Windows and macOS testing devices.

- Sites that **are impacted**:
  - Sites that manually update the secure browser on each Windows or Mac testing device.
  - Sites that have enabled the auto-update feature for the secure browser. This will no longer be an option moving forward.
- Sites that **are NOT impacted**:
  - Sites that use iPad or ChromeOS devices for testing.
  - Sites that use deployment software to update multiple testing devices at once.

**Action needed:** Impacted sites should make a plan to ensure the secure browser is updated before student testing is scheduled to begin. Updating the secure browser is required to allow students to test after June 30.

DRC communicated this information via a broadcast email to State Education Agencies, district test coordinators, and technology coordinators on **May 26**. A link to a Tech Bulletin with additional information was included in the email. Please contact DRC Customer Service with any questions about this change at 855-787-9615 or [wida@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:wida@datarecognitioncorp.com).

### English Language Development Standards Framework (2020 Edition)

A PDF copy of the framework can be downloaded from the WIDA webpage in the [Resource Library](#). Additional professional development is available 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.

### Three ACCESS Training Courses UNAVAILABLE this Summer

The following ACCESS for ELLs training courses will be unavailable June 30-Aug. 31 as they are being updated:

- Online ACCESS for ELLs: Administration
- Paper ACCESS for ELLs: Administration
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring

Read the [article on the WIDA website](#) to learn more and what you can expect.

### 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. Monday -- Friday.

## Seal of Biliteracy

### **NEW!** Several Assessments Approved for Standard Assessment Method

Standardized assessments for Latin, American Sign Language, Lithuanian, and Dutch have been approved recently. Please see our published [list of approved assessments](#) for more information.

# Migrant Education Program

## Migrant Children Services

Please help us to locate migrant children who may be eligible for services in the state Title I, Part C, Migrant Education Program (MEP). 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. Contact [migrant@isbe.net](mailto:migrant@isbe.net) for more information.



## Migrant Student Records Exchange

The [Migrant Student Records Exchange Initiative](#) is a federal database that 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/Language Development 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](mailto:migrant@isbe.net)

# World Languages

## Ethnic Language Schools

Ethnic language schools now are under the purview of the Multilingual/Language Development Department. Information regarding ethnic language schools can be found on the ISBE [World Languages webpage](#). The current list of approved ethnic language school programs has been added to the World Language webpage under the "Ethnic Language School" tab.

## 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.
- A completed school year 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 webpage](#). This presentation is available in English, Bulgarian, Chinese, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Telugu, and Ukrainian.

**When is the application due?**

The application window for the 2023-24 school year will open in September.

## **Visiting International Teacher Program**

**New Visiting International Teachers**

We are thrilled to be welcoming over 100 new visiting international teachers (VITs) and their families to Illinois! Many have already arrived and are completing their J-1 exchange visitor check-in with ISBE before beginning their further onboarding with their host districts. Please ensure that your VITs have sent you their ELS-VIT application ([Form 73-03F](#)) by now. Host districts must then complete Section 2 of the form and sign before submitting to their ROE to be uploaded into ELIS. The vast majority of VITs will see their ELS-VIT licenses issued in early August. Host districts can always contact us at [exchangeteachers@isbe.net](mailto:exchangeteachers@isbe.net) with any questions.