



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

JUNE 2023

November 2023

## English Learners/Bilingual Education Announcements

### Registration Now Open for Multilingual Illinois 2023!

The 2023 Multilingual Illinois Statewide Conference in Conjunction with ESSA returns as an in-person event this year on December 5-7 at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort in Oak Brook.

More than 75 informative sessions will be offered across the three days of the conference. This year, we are pleased to welcome a dynamic lineup of speakers.

[Register Now!](#)

### NEW! Eligible for Immigrant Student Program Data Deadline

The Eligible for Immigrant Student Program count **at 4 p.m. on November 10, 2023**, for each district will be used to calculate eligibility for Title III Immigrant Education Program funding.

The Eligible for Immigrant Student Program count includes students, ages 3-21, who were NOT born in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia or Puerto Rico and who have been attending schools in the United States for less than three full academic years.

### Rules

- Any new Student ID created in grades pre-K or higher requires the "Country of Birth" to be submitted before the student can be counted. If the Country of Birth is other than the "United States" or "Puerto Rico," then the "Date first Enrolled in a U.S. School in Grades Pre-K or Higher" must also be provided.
- Students who exceed three years in the Student Information System (SIS) will not be counted.
- Birth to 3 and evaluation students are be excluded.

Immigrant data can be submitted either online or via the batch process in SIS.

## Nonpublic School Immigrant Student Data Collection

The immigrant student data report for nonpublic schools has been sent to English learner (EL) program directors of districts that submitted an intent to apply for the fiscal year 2024 Immigrant Student Educational Program (ISEP). Please make sure to complete [the private school enrollment form](#) with the total immigrant student enrollment number during the month of October 2023 for nonpublic schools in your district and submit it to the Multilingual/English Language Department. Put **0** students if there are none to report. **The completed form must be emailed to Seng Naolhu at [snaolhu@isbe.net](mailto:snaolhu@isbe.net) no later than November 10, 2023.** Districts submitting the form after this deadline cannot be certain that their private student counts will be considered for determining their eligibility for the FY 2024 Title III ISEP.

Please contact your assigned [principal consultant](#) or call the Multilingual/Language Development Department at 312-814-3850 if you have questions..

## ISBE-Sponsored WIDA Professional Development

WIDA self-paced workshops for FY 2024 are available from now through Aug. 31, 2024. Log in to your WIDA Secure Portal to register for the self-paced workshops. If you do not have a WIDA Secure Portal, please contact [sserrano@isbe.net](mailto:sserrano@isbe.net).

Please register [here](#) the virtual facilitated webinars and other Professional Development available.

### FACILITATED VIRTUAL EWORKSHOPS

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| <b>Mathematical Meaning-Making: Collaborating for Equity</b> | 1 self-paced module plus<br>2 live webinars | Registration deadline<br><b>November 8</b><br><b>Webinars:</b><br>November 29<br>December 6<br>TIME: 9-10:15 a.m. |
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### Professional Learning Opportunity Links

- [IRC free professional learning opportunities](#)
- [WIDA free professional learning opportunities](#)

Other Professional Development opportunities: Please note, these opportunities are not sponsored by ISBE and may have fees that will be the responsibility of the district to participate. They are included here as a resource.

From the DuPage ROE: ***Harmonic Multilingual Program Design (Brief Description)***

*Looking to make data and research-informed improvements to your EL/ML program to improve student outcomes? Form your district team and join the DuPage ROE in person for this unique opportunity to modernize*

and innovate your EL/ML program using a customizable framework, a consensus-based process, and guidance from an expert in multilingual program design. For more information, please contact Maureen McAbee ([mmcabee@dupageroe](mailto:mmcabee@dupageroe)) or Barbara Marler ([barbaraemarler@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraemarler@gmail.com)).

## Screening and Testing

### 2023-2024 ACCESS for ELLs Checklists

The 2023-2024 ACCESS for ELLs Checklists can be found on the [WIDA Illinois website](#).

### Recertification needed for ACCESS

The following assessment trainings have been updated. All educators giving the [Alternate ACCESS](#) will need to recertify before the administration of ACCESS in 2024.

If the ACCESS paper test is given, the [Speaking for Grades 1-5: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener](#) and/or [Speaking for Grades 6-12: Scoring ACCESS Paper and WIDA Screener](#) need to be completed annually.

## DRC INSIGHT iPad application update

DRC is releasing an update to the DRC INSIGHT iPad application this evening, October 18. This update (version 14.1) will disable an AutoFill feature included in iPadOS 17, which was released on September 18, 2023. **Beginning October 26, districts using iPad devices for WIDA Screener Online or ACCESS for ELLs Online will be required to update their devices** to DRC INSIGHT iPad application version 14.1 to continue testing. No other testing devices will be impacted.

The AutoFill issue only impacts districts who updated their iPad devices to iPadOS 17 and had administered the Writing domain of WIDA Screener Online. DRC sent a broadcast email to districts in states where iPads are used yesterday, October 17.

## Visiting International Teacher Program

### Program Extensions

VITs working in your district who are in their third year in the program and have a DS-2019 program end date of June 30, 2023, may be eligible to extend their program for an additional one or two years. Host districts must initiate the request with ISBE, which can then be submitted to the U.S. Department of State beginning in January 2024 and no later than March 15, 2024. Please begin to consider which third-year VITs the district may wish to extend and note there is a fee owed to Department of State of \$367 per each extension request. We will be sending detailed instructions for required documentation in the coming weeks and further reminders into the new year.

### 2024-25 SY Recruitment

Our recruitment partners in Spain, Poland, Morocco, Mexico, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are promoting ISBE's VIT program throughout the fall. Interested school districts who are not already participating in the program should reach out to us at [exchangeteachers@isbe.net](mailto:exchangeteachers@isbe.net) to learn more and discuss next steps before the winter break. We will be scheduling a meeting in January 2024 for all VIT host districts before we begin to match new VIT candidates with districts for interviews. Any new districts must have an MOU in place with ISBE by then to be included in the 2024-25 SY interview process.

## World Languages

French Heritage Language Program Grant – The French Embassy is offering a grant to school districts, after school programs, and community organizations wishing to implement affordable French courses for youth for whom French is a heritage language. Organizations are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$30,000 by December 15, 2023. The funds are

intended to serve as a catalyst for the development of enriching educational initiatives and initiatives that foster a deep appreciation for the French language and culture in the United States. Detailed information is available [here](#).