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

JULY 2021

Announcements

EL PLACEMENT AND SEAL OF BILITERACY FAQs

We have posted [Guidance on English Learner Placement and Seal of Biliteracy Determination with Provisional and Preliminary ACCESS Results](#). This list of frequently asked questions addresses how to place English Learner (EL) students for school year 2021-22 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 or the Seal of Biliteracy to multilingual@isbe.net.

JOIN US FOR THE EBF SPENDING PLAN WEBINAR JULY 26

The Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Spending Plan webinar is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday, July 26. You can register for it [here](#). This webinar will be a review of the FY 2022 EBF Spending Plan and will provide resources for districts in planning the use of their EBF funds.

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](#).

BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM DELIVERY REPORTS DUE JULY 31

The SY 2020-21 Bilingual Education Program Delivery Report has been available for completion in IWAS since May 17. Districts that received \$5,000 or more of state English Learners - Evidence-Based Funding for EL services and/or federal Title III Language Instruction Educational Program funds in FY 2021 **MUST** submit this report in IWAS **no later than July 31**. For more information, [click here](#).

The FY 2022 EBF Spending Plan will open in IWAS on Monday, August 2, and will be **due by Thursday, September 30**. As a reminder, districts that are required to have a Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) must have the committee help review the EBF Spending Plan. Virtual BPAC meetings will still be allowed in order to meet this requirement.

For any questions, please contact EBFspendingplan@isbe.net.

Workshops

IRC-ISBE FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

The Illinois Resource Center (IRC) offers free professional learning opportunities to Illinois educators with support from ISBE. 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.

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.

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 the Early Childhood Professional Learning [website](#) for a description of recent eLearning resources that are available, FAQs, and instructions for creating a user account for WIDA Early Years eLearning.

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 technical assistance website contains resources within each of these six areas and can be found [here](#).

Screening and Testing

ACCESS TESTING - EARLY RESULTS FOR SPRING TESTING

Early ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS test results will be posted in the Student Information System (SIS) on August 2 for SY 2022 planning. These **provisional results** will include scores for ELs who completed all domains of the assessment by June 30. Paper test booklets that were not submitted to Data Recognition Corp. (DRC) by June 30 will not be included. Partial administrations or scores separated into multiple records will not be part of this early release. The ACCESS Preliminary Data Review, scheduled for November 8 to November 19, will include all results for SY 2021. ISBE will send ACCESS data corrections to DRC after the November review closes. Results, including corrections that require rescoring or merging records, will be available digitally December 15 in the WIDA Assessment Management System. They will be posted in SIS by January 19, 2022. Click [here](#) to see an FAQ concerning the release of scores and the effect on EL placement.

ACCESS SCORE REPORTING INTERPRETATION RESOURCES

Now that the spring assessment window has passed and data is becoming available to those who have already tested, WIDA would like to remind districts of the many resources for practitioners and parents to understand what the results mean regarding a student's progress in English.

- Parent Communication: [ACCESS for ELLs Parent Letters](#), now available in the same 47 languages as the ACCESS Individual Student Report (ISR), provide general information about the ACCESS assessment and are meant to be provided to parents or guardians alongside the ISR. The letters are available in Word format so that they can be customized at the local level as desired with local test administration information and state or district policy.
- Parent Communication: [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#), available in 13 languages, helps explain ACCESS scores and the ISR to families.
- Educators: [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) provide an overview of the various types of score reports. These documents explain how scores are calculated, and how you can use proficiency level and scale scores to support your students' language growth.
- Educators: [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS Scores and Reports](#) pages are where you can find sample score reports and additional information about ACCESS scores.

WIDA VIRTUAL ONE-DAY ECONFERENCE OCTOBER 14

The 2021 WIDA eConference will be held on October 14. It will include 20 live sessions with interactive breakout groups. Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen is the keynote speaker for this virtual event. WIDA eConference sessions will align with the conference theme, *Reimagining Opportunity and Access for Multilingual Learners*, and will be designed for educators of K-12 multilingual learners. [Learn more.](#)

WIDA AMS AND WIDA SCREENER ONLINE UPDATES FOR 2021-22

The 2021-22 administration of WIDA Screener Online opened in [WIDA AMS](#) on Friday, June 25. Permissions for the new WIDA Screener administration were assigned to existing users prior to that date. **All Speaking and Writing responses from the 2020-21 administration year were to be scored by Thursday, June 24**, which is when the 2020-21 administration changed to read only.

For questions related to WIDA AMS, please contact DRC Customer Service at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com or (855) 787-9615.

DRC 2021-22 TECHNOLOGY RELEASES

DRC released the annual DRC INSIGHT Secure Application and Central Office Service Service Device installers to WIDA AMS on Thursday, June 24. WIDA strongly recommends updating to the latest versions of both DRC INSIGHT and COS-SD if your sites are continuing to test beyond June 24. These updates were installed automatically on devices so configured.

See the Technology User Guide located in WIDA AMS under My Applications > General Information > Documents. DRC sent a broadcast email to technology coordinators on Tuesday, May 25, with more information and instructions related to these updates.

Opportunities and Resources

NEW U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT: IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON AMERICA'S STUDENTS

The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights has released a new report responding to the President's Executive Order on Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers. The report highlights how COVID-19 threatens to deepen divides in educational opportunity across our nation's classrooms and campuses if the pandemic's disparate impacts are not adequately addressed. For more information, [click here](#).

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Education**

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