

Dear Program Directors:

## DELL GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Individuals Sought to Serve on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (IACBE)*

The Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (IACBE) State Superintendent of Education is seeking individuals to serve on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (ILCS 5/14C-13). New members would serve a three-year term of office, beginning on September 1, 2017. New members will be expected to attend four meetings per year, as well as actively participate in additional meetings and special projects. If you are interested in serving on the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education, please email a cover letter and resume to Gilberto Sanchez, Supervisor at the Division of English Language Learning: [gsanchez@isbe.net](mailto:gsanchez@isbe.net) before the close of business day on May 19, 2017. Successful candidates selected to serve on the IACBE will be notified by the State Superintendent in August. Please contact Gilberto Sanchez, DELL Supervisor, with any questions: [gsanchez@isbe.net](mailto:gsanchez@isbe.net).

## ISBE-SPONSORED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

### **Planning for FY18 WIDA Workshops**

As we begin to plan for FY18 WIDA Workshop offerings, we would like to get your input. Please visit the WIDA website <https://www.wida.us/ProfessionalDev/workshops>

Please contact us at [DELL@isbe.net](mailto:DELL@isbe.net) with your input.

## ASSESSMENT

### **NEW - Screener Update for 2017-18**

The W-APT screening tool is being phased out. It will not be available for use after 2016-17. Illinois will continue to use the WIDA MODEL for K, but not for higher grade levels due to misalignment with the WIDA's new standard setting. The new English language screening tool for grades 1-12, in Illinois, will be the WIDA Screener. It's a newly developed placement test aligned to the WIDA's standard setting. There are both online and paper formats. The online version will function similarly to the online version of ACCESS 2.0, using the WIDA AMS website and DRC software components. However, the online system will only score the listening and reading domains. Writing and speaking will be scored by local district staff. The online WIDA Screener will be available at no cost to WIDA member districts. The paper version is available for purchase in the WIDA Store.

### **Proficiency Level Changes in 2017 ACCESS for ELLs**

The Illinois English proficiency criteria for ACCESS testing (5.0 overall and 4.2 in reading and writing) were implemented in SY 2013-14 and remain unchanged for SY 2016-17.

However, WIDA recently re-examined the ACCESS performance standards and made changes. This is the result of a process called Standard Setting. Please refer to the announcement about the WIDA's standard setting posted below. WIDA held webinars on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to explain these changes, and suggested ways to communicate its impact to students, families, administrators, and other educators. A recording is posted here, <https://www.wida.us/assessment/video/2017ACCESSforELLs20ScoreChanges3.10.17.aspx> (61:40).

### **User Experience Online Survey for 2016-17**

WIDA would like to gather feedback from educators in Illinois regarding their experience with the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment in 2017. The [ACCESS 2.0 LEA Survey](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe1/form/SV_8IjdLkhPtd7huVT) contains questions specific to the roles of Test Coordinator, Test Administrator, and Technology Coordinator and targets the topics of customer service, training, and technology. [https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe1/form/SV\\_8IjdLkhPtd7huVT](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe1/form/SV_8IjdLkhPtd7huVT)

### **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Writing Tryouts** (see attachment)

WIDA and the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) are pleased to announce an upcoming opportunity for teachers and students to contribute to new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Writing test tasks. We are seeking teachers who work with English language learners in Grades 1–12, at all proficiency levels (1–6), including students who have recently been exited from ELL support services. Teachers would identify students who fit these criteria to participate in the tryouts.

Tryouts will take place **April 24 - May 5, 2017** and the items should take 30 minutes to administer. Each teacher who returns all writing samples and secure test materials and completes a survey will receive a \$150 gift card to be used for school supplies.

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

**!!!!SAVE THE DATE: BILINGUAL PARENT SUMMIT!!!!**

### **The Twelfth Annual Statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents**

**DATE:** May 13, 2017

**LOCATION:** Hilton/Chicago Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center  
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, Illinois.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person (includes breakfast and lunch) and there is no limit to how many parents and staff districts can bring.

**IMPORTANT** — In light of the change in registration fees this year, districts will no longer be reimbursed for registration, lodging, and travel. As a result of this change, districts may want to amend either their TBE/TPI and/or Title III budgets to cover these costs. Please make sure to submit your amendment before May 13, 2017. Any questions regarding the budget amendment please contact the Division of English Language Learner at [dell@isbe.net](mailto:dell@isbe.net).

For more information regarding the parent summit and registration please visit the IRC website <http://irc2.thecenterweb.org/site/summit>

### **WIDA 2017 Annual Conference!**

**DATE:** October 16-19, 2017

**LOCATION:** Tampa Conventional Center, Tampa, Florida

The WIDA Conference Committee is pleased to announce the opening of registration for the WIDA 2017 Annual Conference. This year marks the fifth year for the conference, which has grown to become the largest gathering of pre-K through Grade 12 ELL educators and administrators anywhere! Lunch is back again this year, due to popular demand, and we are also happy to offer an exciting selection of affordable pre- and post-conference institutes. Visit the registration website below to learn more about the featured speakers, breakout sessions, agenda, pricing, and more. <http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-wida-annual-conference/event-summary-56356c79e3714191ba963bd3b07f2b7a.aspx>