



Division of English Language Learning (DELL)

DELL e-broadcast 2015-290: DELL newsletter

Aug. 20, 2015

Dear Program Directors:

DELL General Announcements

District Preschool Program Plan (2015-2016 Updates) for serving English Learners

A recent amendment to administrative rules provides districts with additional time—until July 1, 2016—to ensure that individuals assigned to provide instruction in English as a Second Language and/or instruction in a student’s home language in a preschool setting to meet the applicable requirements for bilingual education teachers and ESL teachers (23 Ill. Adm. Code 228.35 (a) & (b)). Staffing is one significant component of establishing Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) or Transitional Programs of Instruction (TPI) to serve preschool English learners, as required under part 228 since July 2010.

In order to ensure that preschool English learners are receiving language support services and districts are making progress toward development of their TBE/TPI preschool programs, districts that have any attendance centers that offer preschool programs and currently do not meet the staffing requirements under 228.35(a) & (b) have to submit a Plan to ISBE DELL, pursuant to 228.35(c)(3).

The District Preschool Plan is available on the DELL website:

<http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/preschool-ells.htm>.

As part of the Plan, districts must address various required components. Districts are encouraged to use the “Service and Staff Template” to satisfy this requirement, which is also available on the DELL website. Plans should be developed and completed in collaboration with the preschool administrator.

Districts that submitted Required Components of the Plan (using the “Service and Staff Template” or another format) in 2014-2015, can:

1. Submit the required components using a new “Service and Staff Template” or submit them in a different format; OR
2. Add updates to and resubmit their original plan with the added updates (see the “Service and Staff Template” for details about which sections need to be updated).

New and updated preschool plans, including all required components, must be submitted electronically to the Division of English Learning (DELL) at ISBE by **September 15, 2015**.

Completed Plans can be submitted to dell@isbe.net. If you require an extension, please reach out to ISBE DELL.

Please note, that the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\): Serving English Language Learners in Preschool Programs in Illinois Public School Districts 23 Ill. Adm. Code Part 228](#) is also available on the DELL website: <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/preschool-ells.htm>.

Please contact DELL at 312-814-3850 with questions.

DELL Webinars

We will be posting 6 recently recorded Webinars for EL Administrators soon. They are designed to introduce program directors to the administrative requirements of bilingual programs. We will let you know as soon as they are posted.

In the meantime, we wanted to remind you that we have webinars available on our PD page that we call our “ELL 101 Series”):

There are two Tutorials that might serve as a good introduction to staff new to serving English learners:

- [Tutorial: EL 101 Introduction to English Learners](#)
- [Tutorial: EL 101 Introduction to Second Language Acquisition](#)

WIDA created Illinois-specific webinars, which are accessible from the WIDA website. We currently have the following available:

- [Standards Overview](#)
- [Assessment Overview](#)
- [Interpreting ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports](#)
- [Spanish Language Arts Standards](#)
- [Focus on Academic Language](#) (just posted this week!)

To access these webinars, please visit the WIDA Download Library at <http://www.wida.us/downloadLibrary.aspx>. Please contact your District’s ELL Program Director or ACCESS Test Coordinator for login information if you need to create a new WIDA account. Scroll to the State/District Webinars section in the lower right corner, choose Illinois and click 'Show'. Once you expand that section you will see the following Illinois-specific webinars.

Seal of Biliteracy

2014-2015 was the first year that the State Seal of Biliteracy was available to students of Illinois, and 2015-2016 is the first full school year where the program will be available to districts. Illinois public school districts may elect to offer the Seal of Biliteracy to high school students who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and another language by meeting the adopted criteria. Participating districts will include a designation of the Seal on the qualifying student’s transcript and diploma.

Please visit the Seal of Biliteracy website for more information about the program: <http://www.isbe.net/seal-of-biliteracy/default.htm>. Districts must apply each year to participate in the program. We are encouraged by the level of participation so far, and hope to support the growth of this program statewide.

A new 2015-2016 training webinar is available on the website for districts interested in implementing the State Seal of Biliteracy and is part of the annually required training for all individuals who are the designated coordinators of district programs. The training focuses on the rules and administrative requirements of the State Seal of Biliteracy, the purpose and value of the program; accepted documentation of English language proficiency and proficiency in languages other than English; the optional Commendation toward Biliteracy; and district reporting and administration requirements.

ISBE-Sponsored Conferences and Workshops

Annual Program Directors' Meeting

Registration for the previously announced Program Directors' Meeting is now open. Please visit the IRC's website for information on how to register (please remember that each district can send up to two people this year, since we have moved to a larger venue);

<http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/>

You can find the memo about the Program Directors' Meeting on our website: <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/conf/prog-dir/fy16/save-the-date.pdf>

We look forward to seeing you all in September!

DELL-sponsored WIDA workshops

Please visit our website to review the catalog of the free workshops WIDA is providing in Illinois this school year. Registration is now open for workshops planned in October:

- October 6: ELD Standards in Action: Differentiation workshop (Champaign area)
- October 7-8: ELD Standards in Action: Unit Planning (Springfield area)
- October 20: ELD Standards in Action: Differentiation workshop (La Salle area)
- October 21-22: ELD Standards in Action: Unit Planning (DuPage county)

The catalog includes more detailed information about the workshops and about registration procedures: <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/wida-prof-dev15-16.pdf>

DELL-sponsored IRC workshops

The catalog of free Illinois Resource Center (IRC) workshops in Illinois this school year is now available on the IRC website: <http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pdf/ISBE-2015-catalog.pdf>. You can visit the IRC website for more information about how to register by mail or online: http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-isbe.html

Accountability and Monitoring

Compliance Monitoring

Please be advised that the FY16 proposed list of districts to be monitored has been updated as of August 10, 2015:

<http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/monitoring-rpts/FY2016/FY16-monitoring-list.pdf>

On the Compliance Monitoring page, you can also find the District Self-Assessment checklist (updated 8/10/15), a list of documents DELL requests when monitoring districts (updated 8/20/15), and other resources: <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/program-monitoring.htm>

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