



Division of English Language Learning (DELL)
**DELL e-broadcast 2015-300: DELL newsletter – Special
Announcement**

Jan. 11, 2016

Dear Program Directors:

General Announcement

DELL has released a Power Point detailing the various components of Full-time and Part-time TBE and TPI. You may find the link to the presentation here: <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/ppt/tbe-tpi-ft-pt-components-pres010816.pdf>

Resources

BPAC Opportunity: IL PTA offering free parent trainings on learning standards this month

Opportunity for BPACs and Other Parent Groups

IPTA Offers Free Parent Trainings on Standards (Materials and Training Available in Spanish)– Limited Time Opportunity

The Illinois PTA, in partnership with the Learning Heroes and the National PTA, is offering to conduct or fund parent trainings on the new Illinois Learning Standards throughout the month of January, at no cost to Illinois School Districts. The trainings are an opportunity to build parents’ understanding of the new Illinois Learning Standards, as well as how to support at-home learning. Schools or districts interested in setting up a parent training or learning more about the opportunity may e-mail Matthew Rodriguez, mrodriguez@illinoispta.org (subject line- Training).

Assessment

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 update:

A number of states started or continued testing this week- WI, MD, KY, MA, MT, and ME. In fact, this Thursday we tested more than 20,000 students. And at one point, we were testing 3,500 students concurrently.

The WIDA team realizes this week has been busy and rather difficult for many, particularly those who are experiencing pre-testing issues, attempting to participate in the Wednesday webinar, and trying to contact either the WIDA Client Services Center or DRC’s customer service. In response to these issues, DRC and WIDA have explored opportunities to provide timelier customer service and up-to-date information.

The following actions have been taken to improve customer service.

1. WIDA would like to apologize for any inconvenience caused by the issues with the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Monthly Q & A Webinar on January 6th. We experienced technical problems with WebEx that have now been corrected. WIDA and DRC are pleased to offer **weekly drop-in Q & A sessions** for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators. These events will be held **each Wednesday from January 13th - April 13th from 1:00pm - 2:00pm CT**. [Join Here](#) to log into a weekly ACCESS 2.0 Q & A session (first date January 13th).

And, due to the technical difficulties this past Wednesday and the number of states beginning their testing windows, WIDA and DRC will also offer an additional Q & A session on **Thursday January 14th from 10:00am - 11:00am CT**. [Join Here](#) to log into the January 14th ACCESS 2.0 Q & A session.

2. Since many may have pre-testing questions, a **Frequently Asked Questions document**, highlighting questions about WIDA AMS (user management, test resources, technology downloads, student management, test session management) and INSIGHT/TSM, has been developed. [This document has been attached for your convenience](#). Please feel free to widely distribute this PDF. A link to this document will be placed on WIDA AMS and WIDA.us on Monday.

WIDA and DRC appreciate your patience while we continue to explore ways to provide timely customer service, as we know this has been an issue for many.