



Division of English Language Learning (DELL)

DELL e-broadcast 2015-301: DELL newsletter

Jan. 26, 2016

Dear Program Directors:

Dell General Announcement

!!!COMING SOON!!!!

Online Registration for WIDA Workshops – Details Will Be Forthcoming.

ISBE – Sponsored Conferences and Workshops

FREE Upcoming WIDA Workshops

- 1) ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports for Instruction

February 23, 2016

ROE Center for Professional Learning

1519 S. Grace Street, Lombard, IL

- 2) Formative Language Assessment Workshop

March 8-9, 2016

Rockford ROE - Training Room

300 Heart Blvd, Loves Park, IL

For more information and registration details, please review the WIDA catalog at:

<http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/wida-prof-dev15-16.pdf>

To register, please email the requested information to DELLRegistration@isbe.net.

!!!!!!SAVE THE DATE!!!!!! BILINGUAL PARENT SUMMIT

Date: May 7, 2016

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

Presentations will be available in the following languages: English, Spanish, Polish, Korean, Chinese, Russian and Arabic.

Grants

FY17 TBE/TPI and Title III Intent to Apply Application

The Division of English Language Learning (DELL) is in the process of reviewing and approving **the FY17 TBE/TPI and Title III Intent to Apply Applications** as well as districts' EL and immigrant student data in the Student Information System (SIS). FY17 Intent to Apply Applications are due on IWAS on January 29, 2016. EL and immigrant student data on SIS must be complete and accurate by March 2, 2016. After that date, ISBE will extract the data used to generate district TBE/TPI and Title III allotments for FY17. Data is extracted once for all districts statewide, and corrections cannot be made after the data is extracted. As part of the Intent to Apply review process, DELL consultants may send emails to some districts to alert them to major omissions or errors in their EL data reported on SIS. All districts should review their EL data on SIS prior to March 2 to determine that it is accurate and complete.

Reporting Preschool ELs on SIS

We have noticed that many districts have not been identifying Pre-K ELs as "LEP" on SIS. Please make sure that all your Pre-K ELs are marked as "LEP" in SIS. Also complete the ELL data section for each EL in Pre-K. ELs without complete data in SIS will not generate funding for district TBE/TPI and Title III programs and they will not be included in the attendance center enrollment reports which are reviewed in the second part of the application (FY17 TBE/TPI and Title III Consolidated Application).

Assessment

1. Recruiting Participants for 2016 Bias/Sensitivity and Content Reviews

This spring, WIDA will be conducting Bias/Sensitivity and Content Reviews in Washington, DC. WIDA is looking for educators to participate on these review panels. The attached memo provides details and information about these upcoming opportunities for educators to be involved in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test development process. The memo also contains a link to a to an online interest form for educators so we can collect their information.

Anyone interested in participating would need to complete the online interest form by February 19, 2016.

2. ACCESS 2.0 online update – Lock feature

This week DRC removed the default nightly lock behavior for the ACCESS for ELL 2.0 online test, meaning that the test sessions are no longer locked each night. Consequently, in the rare instance when students may need to resume a test session, the test will no longer need to be unlocked. Instead, students can use their original test ticket to log in and continue testing where they left off the previous day.

Please recall that unless a student has a specific accommodation for extended testing, or a technical difficulty occurs that prevents testing from continuing on a given day, students should not be testing

in the same domain over multiple days. A single domain test, such as Listening, should be administered in a single sitting.

3. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Testing: Returning Materials to DRC

The testing window for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 in IL ends at end of day on Friday, February 26, 2016. The deadline for UPS pickup of ALL test materials for return to DRC is Friday, March 11, 2016. Remember, if you do not have daily UPS pickup, you must call UPS to schedule the day before you need the pickup.

If you have completed your testing, you should not wait until the deadline to ship materials back. As soon as the majority of students have completed the assessment, you may prepare, box, and return the materials. You should retain only enough materials to account for make-up tests and new enrollments. These materials should be returned via a second UPS shipment.

Please view the Handling Test Materials: Packing and Shipping, Booklet Labeling, and Student Demographic Page Completion modules posted in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Training Course on the WIDA website (www.wida.us). You may access the training course on the WIDA website home page by logging in at the top right of the webpage, clicking ‘My Account & Secure Portal,’ and selecting the appropriate test.

Please refer to the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Paper Test Administration Manual (TAM) (page 84) or the Online Test Administration Manual (O-TAM) (page 111) for step-by-step instructions on the process for preparing test materials for return to DRC. The same steps are covered in both of those manuals for easy reference.

Please contact DRC Customer Service if you have any questions at WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com or 1-855-787-9615.

Other Resources

Recruiting Visiting Teachers From Spain for the 2016-2017 School Year

The Ministry of Education in Spain has this program, whereby English-speaking teachers come to the United States to teach for three years and then return home. These teachers cover lots of subject areas—but the chance to have a person from another country “in residence” in an American school is a valuable opportunity for the students, staff, and community. The teachers have the appropriate state license, an International Visiting Teacher license with a bilingual endorsement. Districts interview and hire visiting teachers in much the same way that they hire American teachers.

The visiting teachers make a one to three year commitment to teach in the United States provided that the school district agrees to rehire them. Participating districts employ these teachers in accordance with local regulations and policies. Teachers are paid according to their experience and certification level.

ISBE tests the candidates’ language proficiency and verifies their qualifications for an *International Visiting Teacher License*.

Visiting Teachers have at least three years of experience. The 70 teachers hired in 2015 to work in 11 Illinois school districts are highly qualified to teach early childhood, elementary, middle and high school that may include areas such as special education, language arts, social studies, world language, math and science.

All districts interested in participating in the Visiting Teachers Program 2016-2017 are invited to attend a meeting, in person or by phone, in which all the necessary information about this year's recruitment will be provided.

RSVP by February 15, 2016 by email to roberto.garciag@mecd.es or rgarcia@isbe.net

Meeting and participation details are found below.

Who: Illinois School Districts Recruiting Teachers for the 2016-2017 School Year
What: Informational Briefing on the Visiting Teachers Program and recruitment
Where: James Thompson Center
100 W Randolph, 14th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
When: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
10:30-12:00 am

Conference Call Number: 1-888-494-4032

Conference Call Access Code: 395 982 1977

Parking validation will be provided: 203 North LaSalle Self-Park Garage
(enter on Clark and Lake)

200 West Randolph Self-Park Garage
(enter on Wells or Randolph)

Lake/Wells Self Park, 177 North Wells

Save the Date: Saturday, March 19, 2016

JOB FAIR 2016 for Bilingual/ESL/Foreign Language Teachers, Aides & Administrators (PreK-12)

Hosted by the Illinois Resource Center. For more information, visit their website -

thecenterweb.org/irc

In the News

Boosting the role of parents of English learners in preschools

Ed Source

<http://edsource.org/2016/boosting-the-role-of-parents-of-english-learners-in-preschools/91578>

What does ESSA mean for ELLs?

For an in-depth discussion of what the law may mean for ELLs, take a look at the following webinar next week, hosted by the Migration Policy Institute.

Upcoming Webinar: Taking Stock of ESSA's Potential Impact on Immigrant and English-Learner Students

Thursday, January 21, 2016, 3:00 p.m. EST

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/blog/what-does-essa-mean-ells>

Strategies for Engaging Immigrant and Refugee Families

(Education Development Center)

<http://www.promoteprevent.org/content/strategies-engaging-immigrant-and-refugee-families-0>

Five Things Teachers Can Do to Improve Learning for ELLs in the New Year

(Colorin Colorado)

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/five-things-teachers-can-do-improve-learning-ells-new-year>



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TO: WIDA CONSORTIUM SEAs
FROM: ALEX BAUER, WIDA & JUSTIN KELLY, CAL
SUBJECT: RE: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0: Bias, Sensitivity, and Content Reviews
DATE: JANUARY 8, 2016

The WIDA Consortium and the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) are currently recruiting participants to serve on committees for the 2016 Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews for new test items on ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0. In addition to the Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews, there will be an opportunity for Content reviewers to participate in an Item Development Workshop to generate content for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 test items. These are two of several opportunities for educators to be directly involved in the test development process for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, the computer-delivered academic English language proficiency summative assessment for grades 1–12.

2016 Bias and Sensitivity and Content Reviews

Overview

Every year, CAL and WIDA conduct Bias and Sensitivity Reviews and Content Reviews of new ACCESS test items. The purposes of Bias and Sensitivity reviews are to ensure that test items are free of material that (1) might favor any subgroup of students over another on the basis on gender, race/ethnicity, home language religion, culture, region, or socio-economic status, and (2) might be upsetting to students. The purposes of Content Reviews are to help ensure that test item content is grade-level appropriate and factually accurate.

Who is needed?

Educators to participate in either the Bias and Sensitivity or Content reviews, not both. All participants will be required to travel to Washington, DC to participate in the two-day event and to agree to participate in 1 of 2 sessions of online reviews. All participants will need to sign a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) to ensure test security.

Bias and Sensitivity Review

Participants in the Bias and Sensitivity reviews should be educators from a variety of cultural backgrounds with experience interacting with ELLs from a range of cultural, regional, religious, linguistic, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Content Review

Participants in the reviews should be educators with experience teaching ELLs and with content expertise (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, or Science) in one of the five grade clusters: Grade 1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12.

What will I do?

Bias and Sensitivity Review

Ensure that the content of the Writing and Speaking tasks:

- does not contain any topics that students might react negatively to, and;
- does not contain any material that might favor one group of students over another, on the basis of gender, race/ethnicity, home language, religion, culture, region, or socio-economic status.

Content Review

Ensure that the content of the Writing and Speaking tasks:

- is grade-level appropriate; and
- is factually correct.

When and where?

The 2016 Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews will occur in two phases:

1. Face-to-face training and Speaking and Writing reviews in Washington, DC, March 7-11, 2016;
2. and via online meetings March 28-April 1 and June 13-17, 2016:

Bias and Sensitivity Review (In person)

March 7-8, 2016

Washington, DC metro area

Content Review (In person)

March 9-10, 2016

Washington, DC metro area

Follow up: Online Bias, Sensitivity, and Content Reviews

We will be holding two online Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews to examine new Listening and Reading folders. These online reviews will involve two 1-2 hour web-based meetings. You will need access to the internet and phone. We will coordinate with the group members to schedule the meetings at convenient times. If you agree to participate in the face-to-face training and review in March, you will be required to participate in at least one of the two review sessions:

Listening Review: March 28-April 1, 2016 [exact days & times tbd]

Reading Review: June 13-17, 2016 [exact days & times tbd]

Additional Exciting Opportunity!

Item Writing Training Workshop

For participants in the Content reviews, we will also hold an Item Writing Workshop on March 11, 2015. The purpose of the workshop is to train educators in item writing for future ACCESS for ELLs tests. The interactive workshop will train participants on the characteristics of successful test items and how to use item specifications to generate items for the ACCESS test. Participants will work in groups, participate in formative training activities, and practice writing test items, which will be submitted to CAL staff for review. You may be contacted for paid item writing upon successful completion of the item writing training. Training Participants will receive a payment of \$250 from the Center for Applied Linguistics for their participation.

Travel Logistics

These reviews will be conducted in the Washington, DC area. Travel costs for the participants will be reimbursed by WIDA within the State of Wisconsin reimbursement rules and regulations. Reimbursement includes airfare expenses or car mileage, lodging expenses, meal expenses, and taxis and other transportation expenses for business travel purposes.

Please distribute this message to educators in your state. If anyone is interested in participating, they need to complete the online interest form located here:
<http://alturl.com/u7fic> by no later than February 19, 2016.

Educators with questions about the reviews should email Alex Bauer
[\(alex.bauer@wisc.edu\)](mailto:alex.bauer@wisc.edu).

Thank you for your cooperation in recruiting dedicated educators from your state to be involved in the test development process for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. We appreciate your support!