

Bilingual Advisory Council
Assessment Sub Committee
Illinois Resource Center, Des Plaines
December 9, 2004

Members present: Dave Barker, Harriette Herrera

Minutes

We reviewed the comments from the IMAGE summit. Comments and/or additions will be sent to Becky Mc Cabe for her review

There is a need to create a simple and concise Q and A regarding which tests need to be administered in 2005 and then what we will administered in 2006. In the Q and A there needs to be an explanation of what ACCESS is and what it will be used for and what IMAGE is and how it will be used in terms of the state assessment plan for ELLs

Harriette will make a chart similar to the one she did for the IPELA meeting that illustrates these differences and share it at the January meeting

The members are concerned with the IMAGE math test and would recommend a more detailed examination of its content. There is a concern that it is not accurately measuring math knowledge. Some of the "simplified language" is causing more confusion rather than less: in an ISAT test the word "dice" was used; in the IMAGE test, they substituted the word "cube" for "dice". A simple drawing of the dice could be used along with the word so students could see something that is probably familiar and attach it to their prior knowledge.

Also, there is a concern that we do not see ISBE math staff attending meetings where issues and concerns related to the IMAGE test are raised and can be addressed or explored. Initially there was work done with Bilingual/ ESL teachers and math teachers in order to build scaffolding and try to lessen the second language load and focus on the math problem to be solved. Are these work sessions still being held? Are we seeing trends in math performance? What are the underlying factors?

The next sub-committee meeting will occur after the larger group convenes at the state bilingual conference. The chairman, Dave Barker, will notify members of the date.