

Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education
Bilingual Special Education Subcommittee

March 9, 2006
ISBE, 4th Floor Special Education Conference Room

Minutes

Present: Julietta Pasko, Angela Miller, Rita Brusca-Vega, Bill Garcia, Pat Chamberlain, Suzy Woods (by phone) Chris Koch.

ISAC

Suzy Woods reported that there have been no appointments to the Governor's Advisory for 2 years. This subcommittee submitted a bilingual candidate but has heard nothing about it. Angela is to draft a letter to send to Elliott Regenstein in the Governors Office to request an appointment of a Hispanic representative to the committee. Suzy will contact Kathy Stratton-chair of ISAC- to request that committee members be added to ISAC list serve. Committee members agreed that there should be representation at ISAC meetings since there is no bilingual member of ISAC. Meetings are April 5 in Springfield and in June in Oak Park.

MONITORING PROTOCOL

Committee noted that we have provided feedback on this tool several years ago. No changes are observable. Major issues to be addressed are; the probes do not address High School level programming, language of instruction is not considered and ELL parents should be explicitly included as part of the interview process. Members are to review in more detail and send comments to Pat Folland at ISBE. Chris Koch noted that the probes are heavily paper oriented. There is a need for more balance with other assessment techniques including observation and interviews. The court monitor has the final approval on the probes.

BILINGUAL PARENT SUMMIT-May 20, 2006

Parents who are members of Bilingual Parent Advisory Councils will be invited to attend this summit. Districts and committee members should encourage BPAC's to include parents of children with disabilities. A question was raised as to how slots will be allocated. CPS has many LSC's. Bill Garcia reported that those details have not yet been worked out. A clarification will be requested at the next IBAC meeting and committee members will be notified.

MONITORING

ISBE is changing the cyclical monitoring approach to one that ranks districts based on LRE, reading scores, expulsion/suspension rates for students with IEP's. The consequences of non compliance will be linked to the recognition process which include; probation, non recognition which directly effects the allocation of funds.

Kate Yiannias is now the court monitor for Corey H and reports to Judge Gettleman.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISBE is collaborating with Univision to produce some spots related to learning disabilities and second language learning that will be broadcast on the television. They are looking for other topics that would be of interest.

BILINGUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION MANUAL

The manual needs to be revised. Chris indicated there was funding for editing and rewriting the manual. Rita is interested in organizing the project. The committee needs to put together a proposal and submit to Chris.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

New regulations have been written to align more closely with federal regulations. A draft of the new rules and regulations are available on the ISBE website.

Changes include:

new definition of culturally linguistically diverse student, graduation requirements, transition plans are remaining in effect for age 14 1/2 , proposal to maintain short term objectives, time from referral to domain meeting, the identification of learning disabilities, behavior plans required for ED eligibility, class size changes, class size definition (up to 40% in general education), elimination of categoricals, elimination of case loads except for speech therapists.

Committee is to read through proposed regulations so that testimony can be prepared. Testimony should include both elements that acceptable and those that may need changes. Comment period is Mid-March through Mid-Sept. They are expected to go to the ISBE Board in late fall.

Chris will send information on RTI to Pat for committee to consider.

IEPOINT

The new reporting system will replace the Edwin system. There was discussion about the difficulty of getting any data from the system. The Committee requests data on 1) number of ELL students by language and disability and 2) the number of certificated bilingual professionals by area of specialization.

STATE ELECTRONIC IEP

There is an electronic IEP being developed. Districts not making AYP will be piloting it first. The goal is to have a state level IEP. Committee requests a demonstration at a committee meeting. Consideration must be given to the manner in which it will be used with ELL populations.

PARENTS MANUAL

Chris reported the formation of a committee of parents to review the parent's rights manual. Committee members should contact Chris with names of parents. The commitment is for 4 meetings. Dates to be determined.

WEBSITE

There needs to be a link from the ISBE special education website to the ELL website. There is no one at ISBE that is fulfilling the role of technical assistance to districts trying to locate assessment personnel. This is a critical need in the field that ISBE must address by designating a person for that role.

Committee discussed the need for a representative to act as liaison with ISBE and the committee. It was noted that there has been none since Liz Lopez left. The liaison is crucial to the functioning of the committee. Chris Koch indicated that he would like to be the contact at this point. Chris also reported that a new grant for professional development has been received. More information will be forthcoming.

The next meeting of the Bilingual Special Education subcommittee is scheduled for May 4, 2006 at 1:00 p.m at ISBE. The meeting room will be posted at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/iacbe.htm> by May 1, 2006.

Notes taken by Pat Chamberlain