

**Illinois English Language Learners Assessment
Advisory Committee (IELLAAC) Meeting
April 21, 2011**

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

Minutes from two previous IELLAAC meetings September 28, 2010 and December 9, 2010 were read and approved with amendments.

Old Business

Members then discussed unfinished business from previous meetings.

Committee members strongly felt that state's Student Information System needs an easy way to identify HS graduates who are former ELLs. We track progress for TBE for those currently served, but not all ELLs. Student development would be greatly served with the help of LEP/services, tracking data as would the evaluation the service effectiveness. Members want to see the SIS designations for LEP status revised so that a formerly LEP marker is a permanent part of the student's record. Also, parent refusals and withdrawals should be sufficiently distinguished. ISBE already wants to remove the "Years in TBE/TPI" field as it's redundant to other information and unnecessary. Optional ways to define and differentiate LEP status (and other ELL fields) in SIS were discussed, quite a bit. In addition there is a span of time over the summer when access to the data is not possible, and processing transfer students is problematic.

The committee would like to meet with SIS to discuss data issues. It was suggested that volunteers hold a call with SIS folks shortly after the current meeting.

Topics for SIS call include

- Establish a formerly LEP flag that is permanent
- Be able to track years in progress
- Distinguish/track refusals vs. withdrawals
- Kids from other states that have no screener score, do have an ACCESS score
- Data access over the summer
- "Returning Student" designation.

The committee agreed to hold another "in-person" meeting in FY11. It was set for Thursday, June 16

Members would like to see more examples for test administrators for the speaking domain. The purpose of certain items needs to be clarified for proper scoring by test administrators. Review of training is a good idea.

The ONPAR-Math project has finished. WCER gathered data from additional states, and the final reports are being prepared. It's unknown whether an assessment product with these items will be offered.

Boon presented ACCESS/ISAT data, showing performance level according to ELP. Tables showed ELLs who exited in 2010. There was discussion of 2008-2010 data brought in. In addition, there was a comparison of transition data for 2006 to 2010.

The committee would like to re-visit the 4.8/4.2 transition criteria when 2011 data is available. Some members believe it's too low. We must also look at progress after exit. Students tend to show better achievement if services continue after achieving State proficiency. There is often a dip in student performance just after leaving ELP services.

ISBE is still interested in implementing a growth model. The IL Technical Advisory Committee favors a growth model but advises being very specific about what it's aimed at measuring and how the measurements are made and used.

Updates

- ISBE has not yet replaced the Division Administrator for Student Assessment. Jim Palmer is the interim DA. No news about possible replacements, but the position was not advertised at the most recent posting of positions open.
- Under the RTTT initiative, ELP testing will not be designed and developed under the PARCC and Smarter Balance consortiums as previously intended. The ELP piece will come from a separate consortium. USDE is calling for proposals for this group. WIDA will submit a proposal.
- The 2011 preliminary ACCESS data has been received at ISBE from MetriTech. It should be posted for inspection soon, once it has undergone an internal examination by the agency.
- SALSA meeting was held in March. SALSA is doing standards and items simultaneously. The greatest challenge may be dealing with the melding of Spanish and English used by U.S. students. [ad hoc]

Accommodation Usage - Boon Lee provided hand-outs and led a discussion of some of the accommodations data available from the 2010 ISAT administration. There were comments by committee members. Not all of the available accommodations were in the file, but we expect to get access to it shortly.

- 2011 ACCESS and ISAT Administration Feedback
Some members expressed that brand new ELLs and ELLs with significant cognitive disabilities should not be required to participate in these assessments. There ought to be a way to exempt them as it's an invalid measurement. The committee is well aware of this concern, but at this time, there is no provision in federal law for any exemptions. We're required to attempt to assess any student identified as having LEP. Hopefully, the Alternate ACCESS, when operational will alleviate some of the problem, but it will not be able to distinguish LEP from a cognitive disability.
- A member suggested that when the state announces schedule extensions for inclement weather, it also warns LEAs that testing materials may arrive late.
- Also, the ISAT Test Administration Manuals did not consistently state that responses in Spanish are only for students who are eligible for ELL accommodations. Test administrators may be confused by the administration language if they are not clear on state policy.

Future English Language Proficiency Standards – A group met following the December committee meeting to define what it means to be an English Language Learner. That definition was part of the meeting hand-outs. Thanks to them for their effort. Given the separation of ELP assessment from the two main consortiums, it's not clear what next step we might take to ensure the needs of Illinois ELLs are adequately served by a new, future instrument.

Next Meeting – The committee discussed possible dates for a next meeting. It agreed to one during the span of September 26-28. There may also be an additional, face-to-face meeting set in FY2010 as a following-up to the SIS telephone meeting mentioned earlier.

The meeting then adjourned.

Attendees:

Barry Pedersen
Boon Lee
Jodi Arvis
David Barker
Harriette Herrera
Marilyn Krajenta
Maria Lozano
John McNulty
Rosemarie Meyer
Debra Plotkin
Judy Yturriago