TO: Bilingual Program Directors
FROM: David González Nieto, Division Administrator for English Language Learning
DATE: April 15, 2015
RE: FY16 Annual State Bilingual Directors’ Meeting

On Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17, 2015 the Division of English Language Learning (DELL) will hold a two-day meeting required for all program directors of TBE/TPI and Title III (LIPLEPS/Immigrant Education) programs. The purpose of this annual meeting is to address topics related to the implementation of programs serving English learners and to provide a forum where you can discuss these issues with other directors and experts in the field.

Dr. Kathy Escamilla, from the University of Colorado Boulder, will be our keynote speaker this year. Dr. Escamilla's research centers on educational issues related to the development of bilingualism and biliteracy. Dr. Kristin Lems and Dr. Jason Stegemoller, from National Louis University, will be presenting about addressing the instructional needs of ELs in STEM subjects. Other presentations will include topics related to early childhood, assessment, civil rights of students, and other important topics. Representatives from various divisions at the Illinois State Board of Education will also be presenting updates and other relevant information.

This year's meeting will be held at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center, located at 3500 Midwest Rd, Oak Brook, IL 60523. This change is in response to participants’ feedback, and we will now be able to accommodate up to two representatives from each district.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 16 with the general meeting starting at 9:00 a.m. You (or a district representative) are required to pre-register. You can find the registration information online after July 1, 2015 at http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/. The registration fee for both days, including lunch, is $195 per person. Confirmation will be sent to all participants from the Illinois Resource Center who is facilitating the registration process for DELL. Like last year, this year’s presentations will be provided on USB flash drives to registered participants. Please plan accordingly.

A block of rooms has been reserved for Tuesday and Wednesday nights, September 16-17, 2015. You must call the hotel directly to reserve your room at (630)855-5555 and mention you are with the State Bilingual Directors’ Meeting. The deadline to make hotel reservations is September 1, 2015. The single room rate is $140 (group rate) + tax.

Registration fees, lodging, mileage or per diem expenses must be included in either the district's LIPLEPS or TBE/TPI program budget under the improvement of instruction services line item, function 2210/300, in order for your district to charge these expenses to the grant as an approved activity. You must follow your school district travel policies to claim a reimbursement for the above meeting expenses. Please note that you cannot spend any LIPLEPS funds prior to September 1st.

Districts that receive less than $10,000 in total TBE/TPI and Title III funds, may qualify for financial assistance. Eligible districts will receive more information in a separate email.

Please contact DELL at (312) 814-3850 for technical assistance related to any programmatic issues or if you need assistance with revising/amending your FY16 LIPLEPS or TBE/TPI program budget.
I wish you and your programs great success this year and look forward to seeing you in September.