

MEMO

Date: September 2005

TO: Superintendent and
TPI/TBE, LIPEP, and/or Immigrant Education Program (IEP)
Director/Coordinator

FROM: Becky McCabe, Division Administrator for Student Assessment

RE: **FY06 ELL Assessment Update**

**THIS INFORMATION MUST BE SHARED WITH
THE DISTRICT BILINGUAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR OR COORDINATOR.**

Beginning in FY2005-06, the Illinois State Board of Education is providing districts with a secure statewide language proficiency assessment for all English Language Learner (ELL) students, called *ACCESS for ELLs*TM. NCLB regulations require this new English language proficiency test to be administered to all Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Illinois State Board of Education will also make available to all districts the **W-APT (the Screener)**, which is a non-secure abbreviated instrument available year-round to district staff to identify ELL students for the purpose of program placement. As a district with a TPI/TBE, LIPEP, and/or IEP program, your staff has been and will need to continue to be involved in training on the English Language Proficiency Standards, the *ACCESS for ELLs*TM assessment, and the W-APT.

Teachers must go through training and pass quizzes to become certified to administer these assessments. This ACCESS certification will appear on the Online Teacher Information System (OTIS). A special series of statewide "Train the Trainer" workshops was provided in July 2005 for district administrators to take back to their districts. We encourage you to utilize these individuals to support and conduct your district's training for these new assessment tools. The following summarizes information on these tools.

W-APT (the Screener)

- The *Screener* is the assessment tool that districts will now use to identify new students as LEP.
- Under the Illinois School Code, all students whose parents have indicated on a Home Language Survey (HLS) that a language other than English is spoken in the home or by the student, must take an English language proficiency test to determine program placement.
- Students who are assessed with the the Screener for placement will also be required to participate in the *ACCESS for ELLs*TM annual assessment.

- To reach the ***W-APT*** on the web, a login and passcode are required. This document is intended for only those staff members who are certified and responsible for administering the *ACCESS for ELLs*TM assessment. Therefore, the login and password should be distributed very carefully.

W-APT Login is available at <http://www.wida.us>

Your District login is: <<Login>>

Your passcode is: <<Password>>

ACCESS FOR ELLsTM ASSESSMENT

- This assessment replaces state approved local language proficiency tests (LAS, IPT, LPTS or MAC II) that your district has used in previous years to annually assess ELL students.
- All students identified as ELL are required to take the annual *ACCESS for ELLs*TM
- The secure *ACCESS for ELLs*TM will be administered January 30 through March 10th, 2006.

TO OBTAIN ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Visit the web at <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/access.htm>

- The site contains training materials for the secure *ACCESS for ELLs*TM assessment
- the certification process for administering this assessment
- a link to the quizzes to become certified
- a link to the OTIS system for teachers passing the quizzes
- and the screener assessment materials

We ask that you please share the additional enclosed letter as soon as possible with your bilingual program director/coordinator so that your district may begin to use the **W-APT** (the Screener) to identify and place new ELL students who enroll during the school year and prepare for the *ACCESS for ELLs*TM assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact Harriette Herrera or Rense Lange in Student Assessment at 217-782-4823, or email hherrera@isbe.net.

Thank you and have a wonderful school year.