A spiral-bound notebook with a light-colored, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the cover.

No Parent Left Behind:

**A Handbook for ELL
Parents**

***An In Depth Presentation
and Discussion about The
No Child Left Behind Law
and its impact on your
child's educational testing.***

By
Melissa Marzullo
&
Annette Wozniczka
District 102

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What was the law before No Child Left Behind?

- In 1994, Congress reauthorized the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Improving America's Schools Act (IASA), which required that states adopt standards-based systems that enable all K-12 students, including ELLs, to strive toward the same high standards.
- As part of the IASA law, states were required to establish accountability systems to track the achievement of **all** students.
- Modifications were made to both of these laws to create No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

What is No Child Left Behind ?

- The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was signed into law on January 8, 2002.
- It was designed to improve student achievement and change the culture of American schools.
- NCLB has affected every school district in Illinois and there have been some challenges along with improvements in student achievement.

In 2008, for the first time since NCLB was signed into law, ELLs in Illinois public schools will not be assessed with a separate test from their native-English speaking peers.

The IMAGE (Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English) test has been discontinued, and ELLs in grades 3-8 will, instead, take the ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) with allowed accommodations.

See letter from state in Appendix A

What state testing does NCLB require?

- Under NCLB, each state must measure EVERY public school student's progress in **reading** and **math** in grades 3-8, and at least once during grades 10-12.
- For the 2007-2008 school year, states must also have in place **science** assessments to be administered at least once during grades 3-5; grades 6-9; and grades 10-12.
- The district must also continue to administer tests of English proficiency to all limited English proficient students.

Exceptions

- ELL students are not required to participate in the ISAT writing test, which is given in grades 5, 6, & 8.
- ELLs satisfy the state writing requirement through their ACCESS writing component.
- ELLs who enter the U.S. for the first time after June 30, 2007, are excused from the ISAT Reading Assessment. They must still take Math (grades 3-8) and Science (grades 4 and 7).

How is testing handled for ELL students?

- NCLB requires that ***all*** children be assessed.
- In order to show adequately yearly progress (AYP), schools must test at least 95% of the various subgroups of children.
- ELL students are one such subgroup.
- States must provide reasonable accommodations.
- However, ELL students who have been in U.S. schools for three consecutive years will be assessed in English in the area of reading/language arts.

What is **AYP**?

- NCLB requires each state to define **adequate yearly progress** for school districts and schools.
- To define AYP, each state sets minimum levels of improvement-measurable in terms of students performance-that school districts and schools must achieve within a certain time frames specified by NCLB.

How does measuring AYP help to improve schools?

- Each state sets a “starting point” that is based on the performance of its lowest-achieving group or of the lowest-achieving schools in the state, whichever is higher.
- The state then sets the bar-or the level of student achievement-that a school must attain after two years in order to show **adequate yearly progress (AYP)**.

AYP continued

- The “bar” must be raised at least once every three years, until, at the end of 12 years, all students in the state are achieving at the proficient level on state assessments in reading/language arts and math.
- By the 2013-2014 school year, the goal is 100 percent of students meeting state standards in reading and math.

How do I know if my child's school is meeting AYP?

- Parents can check the progress made in improving student performance at their child's school by checking the annual district report card.
- This annual district report card can be accessed online at <http://iirc.niu.edu/>. This is the Interactive Illinois Report Card Website-it provides test results and other school accountability information for Illinois schools.

D102's Position on Testing ELL children

- The decision to discontinue the use of the IMAGE was due to a disagreement between the Illinois State Board of Education and the U.S. Department of Education.
- District 102 does NOT believe that the ISAT is a valid or reliable measure of academic achievement for ELL students.
- We believe that the ACCESS test should be the only standardized test given to ELLs until a more appropriate and accurate assessment is created.

District's Position Statement on

Elimination of IMAGE Test

- Superintendents from seven neighboring school districts wrote a position paper outlining their frustration and disappointment at the elimination of the IMAGE test.
- This letter was sent to the Illinois State Board of Education. They have yet to receive any feedback.
- See [Appendix B](#) for a full copy of the letter.

What is **ACCESS** Testing?

ACCESS is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies within the school context across the four language domains (listening, speaking, reading and writing).

Why is an English Language Proficiency test required?

- To provide a resource for ALL involved in the education of English language learners ...administrators, teachers, students and parents
- To define and measure how English language learners acquire language
- To meet compliance with Titles I and III of No Child Left Behind

What is IMAGE Testing?

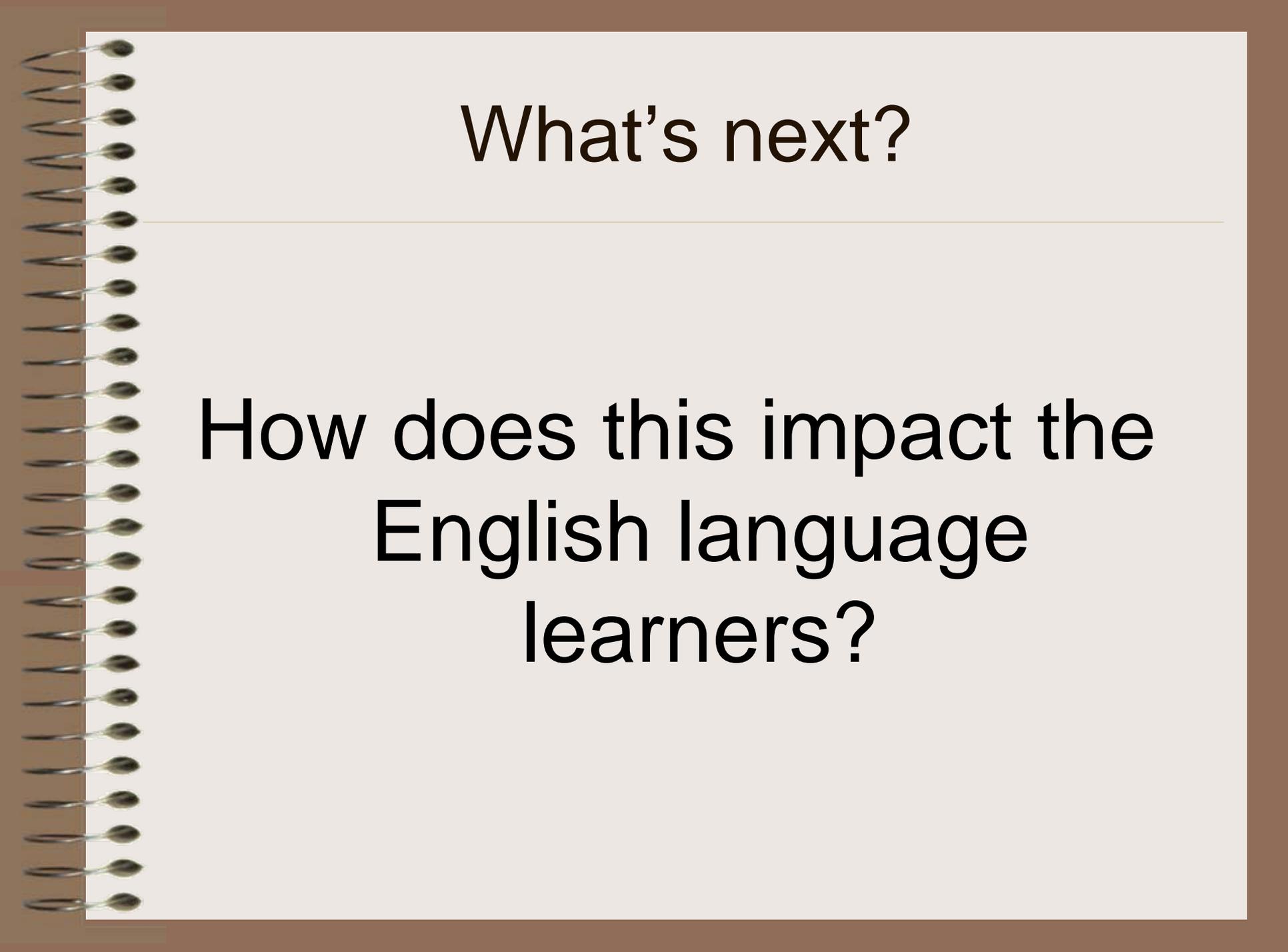
- The Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) measures the progress of students with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- Tests are administered in reading & mathematics in
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11.

Why is the state dropping the IMAGE?

This is being done in order for our Illinois Assessment System to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. NCLB requires all states to have an approved valid assessment system. IMAGE was approved for use under federal law prior to NCLB; however, during the initial Peer Review under NCLB of our Assessment System which began in the spring of 2005, the USDE noted problems with IMAGE's alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards and comparability to ISAT. Attempts to address the issues with IMAGE would not allow it to meet requirements under NCLB.

How many students does
this impact?

- About **59,000** students took the IMAGE test last year or roughly about **5.5%** of all state assessment tests taken.

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What's next?

How does this impact the
English language
learners?

What is the purpose of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)?

“The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) measures individual student achievement relative to the Illinois Learning Standards. The results give parents, teachers, and schools **one** measure of student learning and school performance.”

Who developed the ISAT?

ISAT was developed by Illinois teachers and district curriculum and assessment directors in cooperation with MetriTech, a Champaign-based testing company. ISAT is based solely on the Illinois Learning Standards adopted in July 1997. Those standards were developed by Illinois parents, teachers, administrators, school board members, employers and other citizens to set uniform, high expectations for student learning. Items from the Illinois Goal Assessment Program (IGAP) that measure the Illinois Learning Standards are incorporated into the ISAT.

Structure of the 3rd Grade Reading ISAT

Consists of 3 - 45 minute sessions

- **Session 1:** 6 short passages - 30 multiple-choice items total
- **Session 2:** 1 functional passage with 3-5 multiple-choice items; 1 longer passage with 15-18 multiple-choice items; 1 extended response
- **Session 3:** 1 longer passage with 10 multiple-choice items; 1 longer passage with 10 multiple-choice items; 1 extended-

[See Appendix C for sample test items](#)

Structure of the 3rd Grade Math ISAT

Consists of 3 - 45 minute sessions

- **Session 1:** 40 multiple-choice items
- **Session 2:** 30 multiple-choice items
3 short-response items
- **Session 3:** 2 extended-response items

See Appendix D for sample test items

Accommodations for ELLs

***Timing/Scheduling**

- Extended time
- More frequent breaks

***Setting**

- Distraction free space
- Small group
- One-on-one

***Presentation**

- Reader scripts & audio recordings (in English)
- Directions
- Word-to-word glossaries

***Response**

- For extended-response items, dictated responses (in English) transcribed to standard answer document

What You Can Do

- Attend parent-teacher meetings or special meetings to address academic and testing issues at your child's school.
- Volunteer. Research overwhelming demonstrates the positive effect that parent involvement has on their child's academic achievement.
- Encourage other parents to become involved.
- Talk with school board members, principals, and other state and local education leaders about which programs they think will help your ELL child the most.

Contact your Local State Representative

- Kathy Ryg is the State Representative for our district.
- You can write letters, make phone calls, and send emails to let her know your concerns.

Where To Go For More Information

- For more information on No Child Left Behind and the U.S. Department of Education, call toll-free at 1-800-USA-LEARN.
- Or check www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov and www.ed.gov.
- What Works Clearinghouse on Education Research www.w-w-c.org. This site provides a central, independent and trusted source of scientific evidence on what works in education for parents, educators, and policymakers. There is useful information on English Language Learners.

GOOD NEWS!!!

The state is anticipating using ISAT with accommodations for the next two testing cycles, as they develop a new LEP assessment that would be approved for use under NCLB.