

Back-to-School and Fall English Learner & WIDA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The South Dakota Department of Education's Title III program invites school teams to join our fall professional development and compliance lineup. Tailored for everyone from superintendents tracking district compliance to classroom teachers seeking concrete newcomer strategies. These sessions ensure your district meets state and federal guidelines while elevating classroom instruction.

Back-to-School Basics:

WIDA Screener Process

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026

10:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. CT, Virtual

Designed for EL and testing coordinators, this live webinar walks through the screener process to help support accurate, compliant, and consistent student identification from day one.

Parent Notification and Infinite Campus Data

Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026

10:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. CT, Virtual

Essential for administrators and data staff, this session provides an overview of required EL parent notification timelines and maps out exactly where to record compliance data, language proficiency scores, and service models in Infinite Campus.

Recordings will be available on the SD DOE PD Platform.

Supporting Learners Throughout the Year:

Bringing Language into Focus

Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 4:00–5:30 p.m. CT, Virtual

A two-part virtual series for all K-12 educators exploring WIDA Language Expectations. Learn how to leverage mentor texts to make academic language visible and accessible within your content units.

Engaging Secondary Newcomers Onsite Workshop

Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. CT, MacKay Building, Pierre

Interactive 1-day session helps secondary educators analyze newcomers' literacy strengths and implement practical scaffolding strategies for grade-level reading and writing. 6 CECHs available.

Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Secondary Classroom

Oct. 14-15, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. CT, MacKay Building, Pierre

Two day onsite workshop for secondary content teachers and coaches. Discover how to use the Teaching & Learning Cycle to empower multilingual students to write effectively across academic genres, including social studies. 12 CECHs available.

Actionable Practices for Centering Newcomers

Nov. 2 & Nov. 9, 4:00–5:30 p.m. CT, Virtual

Designed for K-12 educators and administrators, this two-part virtual sequence provides actionable ideas for classroom instruction and peer collaboration to ensure newcomers access meaningful, grade-level content.

Preregistration for all sessions is available online through the [DOE Professional Development Platform](#).

Questions? Email Renee.Lehman@state.sd.us, SD Department of Education Title III Specialist