

David Nieto

Mr. Nieto is the Administrator for the Division of English Language Learning (ELL) at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Mr. Nieto works diligently on establishing how recent policy, such as Common Core standards and PARCC impact ELLs. Prior to joining ISBE, Mr. Nieto worked at the Office of English Acquisition and Academic Achievement in the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He has conducted extensive research related to ELL at the University of Massachusetts, published and taught courses in language acquisition and literacy. Mr. Nieto has a Master degree in Applied Linguistic and a Master degree in Science in Public Policy, and is currently completing his doctoral studies in Public Policy.

Yesenia Sanchez

Currently, Mrs. Sanchez serves as the Director of ELL/Bilingual and Title I Programs for Mundelein Elementary School District. She has also served as the Director of Bilingual Services for DuPage County School District 45, and as the Bilingual Assessment Facilitator for East Aurora School District. Mrs. Sanchez has spearheaded the Biliteracy program, and continues to work diligently in implementing best practices for ELLs among staff, parents and community members. At Aurora University, Mrs. Sanchez has presented on “Language Acquisition” for education leaders pursuing their Master degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Sanchez is a product of bilingual education, and is raising her children as proud bilingual individuals.

Rafael Segarra

Mr. Segarra has been the Director of ELL for Indian Prairie School District for the past four years, and was the Director of ELL for Oswego School District. He has also served as Principal, Assistant Principal and Department Chair during his administrative tenure. Mr. Segarra was instrumental in increasing significant parent participation by 70% while Principal in DeKalb, and raising the academic achievement by 7% for two consecutive years in Oswego. Among his present duties, he is responsible for facilitating State-mandated meetings among the BPAC (Bilingual Parent Advisory Council), which serves to meet the needs of ELL students, as well as ensuring that all ELL programs are in adherence to State policy, as well as mandates tied to state and federal funds.