

**MEMO**

To: Michael Robey, Superintendent  
From: Eva N. Rosa  
Cc: Board of Education  
Date: April 8, 2013  
RE: Bilingual Program Update

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1. A bilingual parent workshop took place on Saturday, March 23rd. The presenter was Mr. Ferney Ramirez, Director of Parent Education and Counseling Services for CPS and Illinois Cook County Suburbs, on the topic of helping your child become responsible and independent for success in school. Our next parent workshop is scheduled for Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> to be held at Lincoln School at 6:00 pm. (Title III)
2. The committee of bilingual teachers in grades K-3 will meet on Wednesday, April 10th at 3:00 pm to work on the state WIDA (World-class Instructional Design and Assessment) Spanish Language Arts Standards in order to create a strong alignment to the Common Core Standards and District 89 curriculum maps. The alignment of these standards will facilitate easier and faster transition into the English language and the progression of academic skills from one grade to the next and from district to district.
3. Bilingual Program classification meetings were held with principals during the month of March to determine a projection of the number of bilingual and ESL personnel needed at each school for the following school year- based on the number of students enrolled in the program. An official number is determined in May after the state ACCESS scores are released. Student exit from the bilingual program is based on the ACCESS scores.
4. We are in the process of coordinating the following Title III summer activities and programs:
  - ESL Summer School: pre-school –parents
  - Bilingual /ESL Summer Certification Cohort
  - Professional Development Graduate Classes
    - West 40 CLIMBS (Content and Language Integration as a Means of Bridging Success)
    - Dominican University -“Common Core with ELLs in Mind”
5. The Illinois Bilingual Parent Summit will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the Marriott Resort in Oak Brook. This is a conference designed for the parents of students enrolled in bilingual programs throughout the State of Illinois. Parents who attend the summit enjoy a vast number of workshops in the area of education. As in previous years, District 89 will be represented by a number of bilingual parents and program director. See attached flyer. (Title III)

6. The Melrose Park Alliance Education Committee has scheduled a series of College Readiness workshops for parents during the months of April and May. The purpose of the program is to motivate and enrich parents' knowledge in the area of college readiness at an early age. Melrose Park School will be the first hosting school. The presenters will be Dr. Luisa Hernandez, Executive Director of Triton College *Nuevos Horizontes*-New Horizons in Melrose Park) and Mireya Vera, Melrose Park Alliance. District 89 is a member of the Melrose Park Community Alliance. See attached flyer (No cost to school or district).
7. The Melrose Park Day of the Child Fair will take place on Saturday, April 27 from 12-4pm at the Village of Melrose Park gymnasium. The fair provides parent and their families with free training in education, social and health services. District 89 is a partner in this event and will be in attendance representing all 10 schools and Central Office. See attached flyer. (No cost to district)
8. Triton College *Nuevos Horizontes*-New Horizons in Melrose Park is bringing to the community a free Resource and Skills Conference on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 1:00 pm at Triton College. Parents and all community members will have an opportunity to learn of the different opportunities they have to further their education and identify skills they need to prepare for job market. District 89 is a partner in the coordination of this event. See attached flyer. (No cost to district)

