

PROGRAM BRIEF

JANUARY 2026

Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) Guidance

This guidance is intended to support shared understanding for program deans, directors, faculty and staff in the basic implementation and management of your IELCE program.

IELCE Program Defined

An IELCE program is a program that does two things:

- 1) Provides instruction in English Language Acquisition (ELA), literacy, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic engagement.
- 2) Delivers this instruction either contextualized in an Integrated Education & Training (IET) program such as I-BEST/I-BEST @ Work or in preparation for such a program.

Program Types for IELCE Funds

Your IELCE program can consist of one, two, three, or all four of the following types:

- **Type 1:** I-BEST. You can offer one or more I-BEST programs that have been designed to meet English Language Learner (ELL) needs. The contextualized instruction provided by the BEdA co-teacher will deliver the ELA, literacy, and civics education components of the program, while the content instructor delivers the workforce training. This is a good option for college providers.
- **Type 2:** I-BEST @ Work. You can enroll ELL into an I-BEST @ Work program you design and offer with an employer partnership. The contextualized instruction provided by the BEdA co-teacher will deliver the ELA, literacy, and civics education components of the program, while the employer trainer provides the job training component. This is a good option for both college and community-based organization (CBO) providers.
- **Type 3:** Fast-track into I-BEST. You can enroll ELLs into an accelerated program that prepares students for entry into an I-BEST program. This differs from traditional ELA coursework because it teaches ELA, literacy, and civics education in the context of preparation for success in an I-BEST program. This is a good option for both college and CBO providers.
- **Type 4:** IELCE programming designed for refugees and immigrants that will lead to future enrollment in Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 IELCE programming as defined above. Note: While IELCE Type 4 has a required navigational component, the navigation component **must** be

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combined with ELA instruction paid for with IELCE Type 4 funds. Further information on the navigation requirement can be found in Frequently Asked Questions.

Approved Navigational Services

The following navigational services are approved:

- Connecting students to wraparound supports.
- Classroom presentations on I-BEST and I-BEST @ Work programming, including information on steps to enroll, deadlines, etc.
- Connecting students to academic advisors and financial aid (including Ability to Benefit)
- Education planning
- Limited assistance with online applications