

Month at a Glance

Hempstead Public Schools • 2026–2027

OCTOBER
2026

#OneTeam

#OneMission

#UnlimitedPossibilitiesForAllStudents



MONTHLY FOCUS

Academic Vocabulary & Student Discourse

Academic discourse stretches **every** skill — listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Build it into every lesson with our **SWIRL** framework:

S

Speaking

W

Writing

I

Interacting

R

Reading

L

Listening

★ Every conversation counts! Let's build **confident communicators**.



WIDA ACCESS: KEY MESSAGE

New York has joined the WIDA Consortium. This year, **WIDA ACCESS** replaces the **NYSESLAT** as our annual English language proficiency test.

- **WIDA ACCESS is an assessment tool.** Our instructional practices do not change.
- We are **not** adopting the WIDA standards.
- Building PLC visits to walk through next steps are coming soon.

NYS Testing Window

Feb. 1 – Apr. 9, 2027

Dates to Know

THU
1

Language Proficiency Team (LPT) Meeting

2:00 PM • Teams

Building Admin & ENL Liaisons

TUE
6

Understanding the WIDA Transition

1:30–2:00 PM • Join on Teams

Test Coordinators & Assistant Principals

TUE
13

Elementary ENL PD Day: Branching Minds & Diffit

8:30 AM–3:15 PM • Jackson Annex, Portable K

Elementary ENL Teachers

WED
14

EdConnective: Relationships & Co-Planning

3:00–4:30 PM • ABGS

ABGS ENL Co-Teachers

WED
14

WIDA ACCESS Online Training

Hempstead High School • Room TBD

HS ENL, WL & HLA Staff

THU
15

Hispanic Heritage Month Concludes

Celebrate through Oct. 15!

All Staff

WED
21

EdConnective: Planning + Co-Teaching Models

3:00–4:30 PM • ABGS

ABGS ENL Co-Teachers

THU
22

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

10 AM–2 PM • Cradle of Aviation • Speaker Scarlet Zambrano

MS & HS Students

MON
5

Virtual Liaison Meeting

3:15 PM • WIDA Roles, Glossaries & Testing Accommodations • [Join on Teams](#)

ENL Liaisons

FRI
9

Language Proficiency Team (LPT) Meeting

1:00 PM • Teams

Building Admin & ENL Liaisons

TUE
13

Understanding WIDA: Instructional Technology

3:30–4:30 PM • Jackson Annex, Tech Lab

Technology Coaches & Team

WED
14

FLES & WL PD: "From Curriculum to Communication"

Virtual • [Join on Teams](#)

FLES & World Language Teachers

WED
14

PD: Supporting Refugee, Immigrant & SIFE Students

What Every Educator Needs to Know • HS, Room TBD

HS Guidance Counselors & Social Workers

THU
15

New Teacher Onboarding

8:15 AM–3:15 PM • Jackson Annex • Details to Follow

Newly Hired Elementary Teachers

WED
21

WIDA ACCESS Speaking Training: Grades 9–12

Hempstead High School • Room TBD

HS ENL, WL & HLA Staff

FRI
30

Districtwide WIDA ACCESS Ordering

9:00 AM • Jackson Annex • Bring Rosters & IEP/504 Info

Test Coordinators • ENL Liaisons • Technology Dept.

 Professional Learning
  Meetings
  WIDA / Testing
  Celebrations & Events

Coming Soon: WIDA Building PLC Visits • WIDA ACCESS Training Reminders • Testing Window Feb. 1 – Apr. 9, 2027



TIP: PUT COGNATES TO WORK

About 30–40% of English words have a related word in Spanish — a built-in bridge for our learners.

analyze
analizar

compare
comparar

evidence
evidencia

- Start a cognate wall for each unit and build it *with* students.
- Pre-teach 3–5 Tier 2 words before reading; flag “false friends” (*embarrassed* ≠ *embarazada*).
- Have students use new words in a sentence frame during partner talk, then in writing.



CO-TEACHING CORNER

Shared Planning = Shared Responsibility

Content Objective →

Language Objective →

Linguistic Demands →

Scaffolds →

Co-Teaching Model

Reminder: **both teachers** should have an active instructional role throughout the lesson.

ABGS co-teaching teams: join the EdConnective workshops on **Oct. 14** and **Oct. 21**.

Plan with: NYSED Academic & Linguistic Demands — nysed.gov/bilingual-ed/academic-and-linguistic-demands



WORLD LANGUAGES SPOTLIGHT

Communication Over Perfection

Interpretive
listen & read

Interpersonal
speak & interact

Presentational
speak & write

- **Oct. 14 virtual PD** for FLES & WL teachers: [Join on Teams](#)
Meeting ID: 269 878 725 247 115 • Passcode: As9wW92s
- **NYS Seal of Biliteracy:** 2026–27 planning is underway. Have a potential candidate? Connect with Ms. Panagos.



RESOURCE CORNER

- **Department Handbook** — finalizing details; to be shared soon.
- Academic & Linguistic Demands: nysed.gov
- WIDA Webinars: wida.wisc.edu/grow/wida-webinars
- NY WIDA Page: wida.wisc.edu/about/consortium/ny

REMINDER: Daily Speaking Practice for ALL ELLs

Lexia English Grades K–6

Rosetta Stone Grades 7–12



Now available to **all ELLs, regardless of proficiency level**. These core online tools build **speaking skills** and engage students in **listening comprehension across all content areas**. On **WIDA ACCESS**, students in **Grades 1–12 speak into a microphone** — use them regularly and check headsets & mics!

Need headsets? Email dranieri@hempsteadschools.org with your **room location, number needed**, and **type (USB or regular 3.5 mm plug)**.

SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15

Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate the histories, cultures, languages, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities.

Cultural Hispanic Heritage PPT & Resources

Newsela Digital Resource Guide

Newsela guide: **K–12** articles, videos, STEM connections, bilingual materials & Smithsonian resources. Please share with your faculty and staff!

Celebration Corner



Send photos, presentations & student work from your Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations to Ms. Ranieri to be featured!

👁️ LOOKING AHEAD

November: WIDA Building PLC Visits • ACCESS Test Administrator Training • Continued Focus on Academic Discourse

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