

Everybody's KIDS

News for all Pennsylvania educators
of English language learners

Summer 2017



Upcoming PDE Professional Learning Opportunities

On-Site Events

Scaffolding to Support Language Development
October 3-4, 2017 | PaTTAN Harrisburg

English Language Development (ELD) Curriculum Development & Program Design
October 10, 2017 | PaTTAN Pittsburgh
October 12, 2017 | PaTTAN Harrisburg
October 13, 2017 | PaTTAN East - Malvern

Accessing Inquiry for English Learners through Primary Sources
November 3-4, 2017 | Center for Schools and Communities (Camp Hill, PA)

Webinars

Pennsylvania ESL Updates – 2017-18 School Year
September 14, 2017
1:30 – 3:30PM

PIMS Collection 1: EL Data; Title III PD Survey; Non Public Counties
September 19, 2017
10:00 – 12:00PM | 1:30 – 3:30PM (repeat)

English as a Second Language & Higher Education
October 2, 2017
10:00 – 11:30AM

For event details and to register visit
www.ESLportalPA.info/professional-development.

WHAT'S NEW

State-Required English Learner Reclassification (Exit) Criteria – School Year 2016-2017

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has released [State-Required English Learner \(EL\) Reclassification Criteria](#) to be used to make reclassification (exiting a student from active EL status to first year monitoring) decisions based on 2016-17 performance data. Please note, the criteria outlined in this document will be used only for the 2016-17 school year (including students who will be reclassified in September, 2017).

New reclassification criteria will be published for the 2017-2018 school year and will take effect in June, 2018.



New WIDA Focus Bulletins

Two new bulletins have been released as part of the WIDA Consortium's 'Focus On' series.

Focus on STEM Discourse: Strengthening Reasoning, Strengthening Language

This resource explores discourse-centered instruction designed to strengthen EL's reasoning and language, and support equitable access to challenging and rigorous STEM content-area learning.

Focus on Providing English Learners with Disabilities with Access to Complex Language

This bulletin presents three instructional shifts which can facilitate English Learners with disabilities gaining more meaningful access to content area instruction, including:

- Integrating instructional support into the general design and delivery of a lesson or activity, rather than adding it on as an accommodation;

- Providing language development instruction that focuses on using complex language in meaningful experiences, rather than focusing only on discrete parts of language; and
- Providing explicit instruction on the genres associated with schooling.

WIDA Can Do Name Charts

WIDA has updated their popular Can Do Name Charts to align to the new Can

Do Descriptors, Key Uses Edition. To download the latest versions of the grade-cluster specific charts, visit the [WIDA site](#).

The charts are a great way to organize and share information related to your students' English Language Proficiency data. Visit this [WIDA blog post](#) for five great tips on using the name charts to collaborate with your colleagues.

RESEARCH, RESOURCES & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

English Learner (EL) Symposium: Strategies for Success

August 9-10, 2017 | Chester County Intermediate Unit

The Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, hosts the 2017 EL Symposium, offering workshops centered on strategies and approaches for supporting English learners. This year's featured speakers include Jesse Markow, Director of Key Accounts and Partnerships, TransACT Communications, and David and Yvonne Freeman, authors of the bestselling book *ESL Teaching: Principles for Success*. For more information and to register, visit the [CCIU's website](#).

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium/ WestEd Webinar: Strategies to Teach Academic Language

In September 2016, the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, in conjunction with WestEd and the Center for Schools and Communities, hosted a webinar highlighting strategies for teaching academic language to English Learners. This excellent session, presented by Margo Gottlieb, lead developer for WIDA and director of assessment and evaluation, for the Illinois Resource Center, and Gisela Ernst-Slavit, associate dean and professor in the College of Education at Washington State University, has been archived, and is available for viewing on the [Center for Safe Schools website](#).



CLASSROOM TIPS, TRICKS & BEST PRACTICES

Visually-supported materials are of course a cornerstone in the ESL classroom, but photographs and other visual art can hold a valuable role beyond a simple instructional support, and serve as a powerful tool to support literacy development in English Learners. The following resources provide easy-to-implement strategies for teachers to incorporate into daily instruction.

Literacy Through Photography for English Language Learners

Based on the work of [Wendy Ewald](#), a photographer and educator, this [article](#) from [Edutopia.org](#) provides five photo-based strategies for engaging students in analyzing a wide range of texts.

Using Photos with English Language Learners

In this [article](#), Larry Ferlazzo explores strategies to use photography to meet several English Language Arts standards, including integrating and evaluating information in diverse media and formats; developing a topic with relevant facts, definitions, details, and examples; and using precise language and vocabulary to inform about or explain a topic.

10 Intriguing Photographs to Teach Close Reading and Visual Thinking Skills

If you are interested in implementing the above strategies in your class, but aren't

sure where to begin locating high quality photographs, the [Learning Network](#), an education blog from the New York Times, has collected 10 interesting and complex images which lend themselves to use in the classroom.



What do you think?

For any comments, questions or suggestions for future issues contact:
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