

EL-Specific Book Studies

1. Select a text appropriate to your LEA's needs: improving ELs' literacy skills, math skills, English language acquisition or acculturation to the U.S.
2. Develop for your ESOL or regular education & support staff a book study around the text, with documented meetings, discussions, and reflections *throughout the school year*.
3. Provide time for book study participants to present at staff meetings, principals meetings, to counselors or to parents, as appropriate - document these presentations and meetings.

Some text ideas among many others!

- The *Colorín Colorado* website, with funding from the National Education Association, produced a new section about identifying, assessing, and teaching English learners who may have learning disabilities <http://tinyurl.com/hydvx7m>
- Corwin Press reprinted a chapter on ELs and disabilities from Dr. Debbie Zacarian's book *Transforming Schools for English Learners* on the Colorín Colorado site <http://tinyurl.com/gu8w44t> Debbie Zacarian, Ed.D. & Assoc., debbie@zacarianconsulting.com, zacarianconsulting.com, 413-626-1660, 413-253-0588 (fax)
- *Learner English*, edited by Michael Swan and Bernard Smith, Cambridge University Press has a 2011 second edition. *Learner English* is a resource for those seeking a less intensive overview of *challenges by language*, particularly in the area of pronunciation, *Learner English* provides Charts in the *Rules by the Sound* materials. You can learn more at: www.eslrules.com.
- *Understanding Your Refugee and Immigrant Students, An Educational, Cultural, and Linguistic Guide*
- *Understanding Your International Students, An Educational, Cultural, and Linguistic Guide*
- USED English Learner Tool Kit (Chapters 1-10) and Newcomer Tool Kit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html>

EL-strategy Newsletters

At set periods throughout the year, ESOL staff could create and disseminate a newsletter on ESOL topics that is shared with instructional and office staff. Topics should be appropriate for the time of year, such as WIDA Can-Do descriptors and Language Functions, ESOL data entry and coding guidance, ESOL documentation requirements, OCR translation and interpretation requirements, ESOL screening process, helpful EL-strategies for starting the year, holidays and cultural information, ACCESS 2.0 testing schedule/process, EL parent and family engagement ideas and requirements, more EL-strategies for 2nd semester, EL Strategies specific to H.S. teachers, guidance on state assessment administration, etc. Maintain records of these newsletters and their dissemination to teachers and school leaders.

WIDA Focus Bulletins

Periodically use timely WIDA Focus Bulletins for staff development, at grade-level meetings, or departmental meetings as a stand-alone EL focused session, or as an introduction to another PD session. WIDA Focus Bulletins are available on a variety of topics, are not extensive, and provide discussion questions and practical ideas. You can find them for download at: <https://www.wida.us/professionaldev/educatorresources/focus.aspx>

WIDA Professional Learning Modules

If you're interested in providing a self-guided PD, consider using WIDA's professional learning Modules found at: <https://www.wida.us/professionaldev/educatorresources/learningModules.aspx> Someone with a WIDA login/password will have to access the learning modules, which address standards related to academic English language development. Grade level teacher teams or departmental teams could view the modules together and provide discussion, reflection, and feedback on each other's teaching practice in a true PLC fashion.

- **Taking Action for ELLs: Foundational Concepts** - beginning level of awareness of WIDA and/or English language development
- **Engaging ELLs: Teaching to Student Strengths** - intermediate level of awareness of WIDA and/or English language development