

English Learner (EL) News & Notes

Virginia Department of Education, Office of Humanities, EL Instruction Program

Thank you for subscribing to this monthly English Learner Instruction news and notes service. Each month, interesting news about English Learners and related topics are provided. Please note that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) does not necessarily endorse these views or any others on external websites or links included in the newsletter.

March 2020

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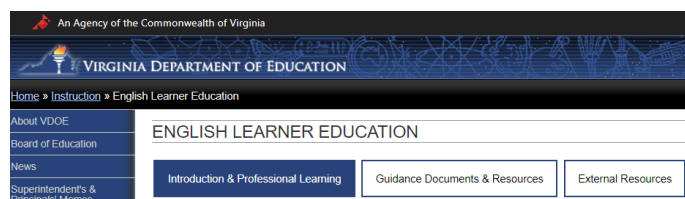
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News and Announcements

New [EL Education Website](#) Design and Resources

The newly redesigned website now includes navigation tabs for a page specific to guidance documents and resources from the VDOE, WIDA, and the U.S. Department of Education, plus a page with links to resources organized by topic.



On the Guidance Documents and Resources page, there are several new resources and infographics:

- [EL Teacher Toolkit](#) (includes Lesson Planning considerations, Scholar Sheets with examples of academic language sentence frames, lists of supports, "I can" statements for students, and Instructional Considerations by proficiency level)
- [Mathematics Instructional Enhancements and Equity for Diverse Learners Infographic](#) and [References List](#)
- [Reading Instruction for ELs Infographic](#)
- [Providing ELs with Additional Reading Support Infographic](#)
- [Science Instructional Enhancements and Equity for Diverse Learners Infographic](#)

Additional VDOE resources include:

- [Language Instruction Educational Program \(LIEP\) Models in Virginia](#)
- [Professional Development Pathways](#) - Includes links to a variety of topics and resources to support any EL educator

[New ELD Standards Framework coming out Fall 2020](#)

According to WIDA, there will be new instructional materials that support implementing English Language Development Standards in every content and ESL classroom with an EL. Prior ELD Standards Framework Editions and other supplemental materials and resources are likely to be retired. Stay tuned for more information, including fall professional learning opportunities to learn about the new materials.

[SYLLABLE Act Promotes Access to Dual Language Immersion Programs](#)

On February 5th, Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva introduced the Supporting Young Language Learners' Access to Bilingual Education (SYLLABLE) Act in the House of Representatives. The bill helps establish high-quality dual-language immersion programs in communities with high numbers of low-income families and supports those programs from pre-K to 5th grade.

New Newsletter Delivery System

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is launching GovDelivery for all of its mass communications and electronic newsletters! GovDelivery is a web-based software system provided by Granicus that allows VDOE offices to deliver messages to subscribers and manage subscriptions. GovDelivery allows interested subscribers to receive a variety of email updates from VDOE, including e-newsletters, daily news clips, and public meeting notices based on their individual needs and interests. Future *EL News and Notes* will be delivered by this new system.

In-state tuition for undocumented college students

Any student who has attended a Virginia high school for at least two years, regardless of citizenship, would be eligible for in-state tuition at state colleges and universities under bills passed by the House and Senate.

Scholarship Opportunities:

2020 Granville P. Meade Scholarship

The Granville P. Meade Scholarship provides financial assistance to students who have achieved academically, but who are financially unable to attend college. The Fund awards scholarships to eligible Virginia high school seniors to attend one of Virginia's public or private colleges or universities. See [Superintendent's Memo 021-20](#) for the upcoming deadlines.

The Ellevation Scholarship Program

Ellevation has established a scholarship program to assist students who plan to continue their education in college or vocational school programs. Applications are open from now until March 16th. Ellevation will be awarding five (5) \$2,000 scholarships to deserving EL students to pursue a higher education and achieve their highest aspirations. Learn more about guidelines, requirements, and other details by visiting the [application page](#).

Professional Learning Opportunities

Click on the hyperlinks to access more information or to register.

[March 9, 2020, 3:30 p.m.](#): *Math Strategies for Beginning Level ELs*

[April 20, 2020, 3:30 p.m.](#): *Leading for EL Equity with Language-Focused "Look-Fors"*

May 2020: Engaging ELs with Technology (specific topics and tools presented will vary by date)

- [May 4, 2020, 3:30 p.m.](#)
- [May 11, 2020, 3:30 p.m.](#)
- [May 18, 2020, 3:30 p.m.](#)

EdEquity Webinar Series: The Virginia Department of Education will host a monthly series of webinars focused on equity strategies and resources available to school divisions. Proposed topics include cultural competence and responsive practice, equity audits, multicultural curriculum, engaging families of ELs.

Available anytime:

Whiteboard Wednesday Video Series Channel: Short on time? We share tips and strategies to help you maximize impact on your students - all in about 4 minutes!

Self-paced WIDA eWorkshops: variety of topics (e.g., Engaging Newcomer ELs, STEM for ELs, Writing)

Available anytime through August, 2020

Email jessica.costa@doe.virginia.gov with the following information to sign up: First and Last Name, Position, and School Division

Principles and Promising Practices

This section includes links to recent articles and resources that support quality instruction for ELs. Each month's newsletter will feature new items. Click on the titles to access a direct link.

[Global Storybooks: freely available digital tales in 50+ languages](#): Providing ELs access to reading materials in their primary languages is a research-based instructional practice. The University of British Columbia developed Global Storybooks, an open, multilingual literacy portal that offers books to more than 40 countries and regions. The goal is to nurture language learning and support literacy.

[Motivational Framework for Culturally Responsive ESL Teaching](#): This article, through a deep, classroom-driven research project, explores the benefits of four aspects of a motivational framework: inclusion, attitude, meaning, and competence. Classroom strategies and activities are included.

[Serving Immigrant and Undocumented Students](#): Natasha Quiroga, a lawyer who directs the Parental Readiness and Empowerment Program at the Washington, D.C.-based Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, shares advice with educators around best practices for immigrant students and families.

Content Connections

In February, there were a number of professional learning sessions focused on the needs of ELs, specifically academic discourse within content and general education courses. Please find links to some resources from those presentations below:

[Science: Meaningful Discourse through Common Experiences \(Noisy Classroom\)](#)

[Language Use in English Language Arts](#)

[Success in Secondary Math: Connecting Language and Content](#)

[Leading for Multilingual Learner Achievement](#)

Be sure to sign up for [Teacher Direct](#) to get information about content area trainings, opportunities, and resources!

Contact

You can email Jessica Costa, jessica.costa@doe.virginia.gov, to have emails sent directly to your inbox or to recommend topics or resources for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. To ensure the letter comes to your inbox, please add jessica.costa@doe.virginia.gov to your contact and safe-senders lists.
