HOT TOPICS in Elementary Education: Becoming Our Own Advocates

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Who is responsible for teaching our English Language Learners?

ELs are the responsibility of all educators.
Focus…

- How do we advocate for our ELLs and Ourselves?
- Opportunity to network with fellow ESL educators
- Breakout into small groups
- Identify and investigate issues/topics pertaining to your classroom with your group.
- Record shared topics/issues on chart paper
- Share/discuss chart paper as whole group
- Discuss and record on chart paper practical solutions as a whole group.
Topics/Issues from the HOTLIST
Elementary grades 1-5

- Speaking scores/ testing issues-discrepancies
- Creating Schedules
- Testing- NJLAS/PARCC/ new screener/Access/accommodations
- Multiple criteria/ exiting students/ evaluating students/ referring students
- Resources / program funds/ title funds
- Collaboration with classroom teacher/ sharing scores
- Pulled for testing PARCC/NJSLA/ cancelling program
- Strategies/resources
- WIDA frameworks for ELD standards/FERPA/ESSA
Topics/Issues continued

- Screening languages
- Teacher prep program
- Consortium meetings- recruiting/attending
- New home language surveys
- Advocacy
- Immigration (BRYCS)
- Curriculum/ aligning / model-examples instruction
- Teacher Evaluation
- Placement of students
- Language codes
Turnkey information

- Google doc: strategies and new contacts will be shared via email you have provided.
- Use this information to share with your colleagues.
Changing Mindsets

from:

- My ELLs can’t speak English.
- My ELLs aren’t able to read on grade level.
- I don’t know how to help my ELLs.
- My ELLs seem off task, angry or unhappy.


to:

- What language can my ELLs speak?
- How can I accommodate this text? What resources are available?
- Who can I reach out to for support? Where can I learn more?
- How can I make the classroom environment inviting and safe?
“A pluralistic, cosmopolitan society is a society which not only accepts difference, but actively seeks to understand it and to learn from it. In this perspective, diversity is not a burden to be endured, but an opportunity to be welcomed.”

Aga Kahn, Lecture at Harvard University (2015)