

English Language Learners Advisory Committee meeting – Fall 2008

District sharing highlighted differences in services acknowledging growing English language learners numbers. Group requested that committee be called “English Language Learners” and highlighted that every teacher is a teacher of language learning. All districts are looking for support for the teacher/school/administrator who has **one/few** ell student(s). Some districts shared that hearing from districts administrators who have offered programs to support ELL students would be helpful.

Programs should be planned with two audiences in mind: the teacher with limited experience and few ELL students, and school and district leaders new to this area who are wishing to plan programs to support growing numbers of ell students. Collaborative opportunities with large districts, who have experiences with pd in this area and who offer extended services for ell students, should be explored to both learn from as well as support with grant dollars available. Goal for all sessions will be to create the confidence and competence for adult learners to best support language learners.

Meeting overview and requests for programs include: Program available in early January.

- \$15,000.00 grant to offer a **“Promising Practices day”** the week of February 17, (depending on finding a site) . An overview of the day includes

AM – two sessions	For those new to the area – a session on “all I really need to know” e.g., what is a general overview of needs of group, basic di strategies and how you need to be aware of language acquisition skills to align DI strategies with needs of students, resources materials available, what bics and calps are, basic intake strategies, community resources. Kerri and Karen have shared they will offer this session *(still to be confirmed with their district)	For those “experienced” in working with ELL. Some of the ideas suggested include: A session on how to best develop oral competencies, writing skills, content specific skills (e.g., teaching English of content areas)	
PM – four different sessions – focused on “promising practices” and existing materials			
Assessment materials from AAC – Karen and - ----	Instructional Strategies/DI strategies Marilyn Abbott has agreed to offer a session – I will ask if she can bring a practicing teacher. We will ask her for strategies for classroom teachers – concrete examples.	School and district intake Protocols I was going to ask Ray Campbell to offer this session based on the work he has done in the last 18 months. The group agreed that he will be a good model for those admin and central	Best use of resources – what are they - how can I best use them - what is on the internet - question and answer type session - Kerri has offered to do this session. And we will consider breaking into two groups – elem/sec

		office new to the area	
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- Morning session for all on cultural competency. Marie Gervais – to request ideas and potential role.
- Group desired the development of a more ongoing plan - including a scan of the environment to determine all that is occurring. (e.g., large districts and ATA specialist council)
- Other requests for learning opportunities: (Distributed Learning initiatives in bold and italics):
 - Cultural sensitivity /competency– specifically a series offered with Marie Gervais and the northern Alberta race. ***Series will include some sessions delivered via VC. Explore the potential to video tape and archive some of these messages.***
 - Guide to Implementation overview and support
 - High school program of studies
 - CBE Resource – Karen Roth
 - ***Assistive Technology tools that have the potential to support ELL***
 - ***Internet resources that have the potential to support ELL***
 - ***Good use of smart boards to support ELL***
 - Assessment for and of learning (e.g., AAC resource, Woodcock Munuz
 - Effective instructional strategies for content teachers

Next meeting planned for January 14, 2009 at 3:00 pm