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ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHERS OF ELS

General education teachers need practical, research-based information, resources, and strategies to teach, evaluate, and nurture ELs. NEA recommends focusing on the following essential components of a comprehensive professional development program for general education teachers of ELs:

- A process for establishing high standards for English language acquisition, English language development, and academic content in lesson planning and instruction.
- A process for integrating teachers' understanding of academic content and English-language proficiency standards with instruction in teaching methods and assessments.
- Knowledge and use of effective pedagogy.
- Methods for implementing instructional strategies that ensure that academic instruction in English is meaningful and comprehensible.
- Exposure to a demonstration showing how to implement strategies that simultaneously integrate language acquisition, language development, and academic achievement.
- Exposure to a demonstration showing why increasing academic achievement of ELs is dependent upon multiple instructional approaches or methodologies.
- Providing a "strategies toolkit" for teachers, which offers ways to enhance and improve instruction for struggling students, based on assessment results.
- Cultural awareness is also an important component of a professional development program. To maximize achievement opportunities for ELs, educators must understand and appreciate students' different cultural backgrounds.

Source: National Education Association. (2011). Professional development for general education teachers of English language learners. (NEA Policy Brief). Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/PB32_ELL11.pdf