

Professional Learning Communities Facilitator's Guide for the What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guide *Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners in Elementary and Middle School*

The *Professional Learning Communities Facilitator's Guide* is designed to assist teams of educators in applying the evidence-based strategies presented in the [Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners in Elementary and Middle School educator's practice guide](#), produced by the What Works Clearinghouse. Through this collaborative learning experience, educators will expand their knowledge base as they read, discuss, share, and apply key ideas and strategies to help K–8 English learners acquire the language and literacy skills needed to succeed academically.

The facilitator's guide employs a five-step cycle that encourages professional learning communities to debrief, define, explore, experiment, and reflect and plan. This cycle is supplemented with activities, handouts, readings, and videos. Educators will develop a working knowledge of some of the best practices in the English learner practice guide through analysis of teaching vignettes and other interactive activities. Included in the toolkit of materials are 31 handouts and 23 videos. Four of the videos provide narrative overviews of the four recommendations in the practice guide; the remaining videos show teachers putting the recommendations into practice in actual classrooms at three different grade levels.

[Facilitator's Guide, Infographic, and Handouts](#)

[Part I: Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners](#)

The English Language Learners Alliance at REL Northeast & Islands hosted this Bridge Event drawing on the IES Practice Guide “Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners in Elementary and Middle School.” In Part I, Dr. Michael Kieffer, associate professor of literacy education at New York University, presents recommendations 1 & 2 from the practice guide.

[Part II: Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners](#)

The English Language Learners Alliance at REL Northeast & Islands hosted this event drawing on the IES Practice Guide “Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners in Elementary and Middle School.” In Part II, Dr. C. Patrick Proctor, associate professor of education at Boston College, presents recommendations 3 & 4 from the practice guide.

[Confessions: New Teacher of Newcomers: Michelle Benegas at TEDxUMN](#)

Michelle Benegas, educational researcher and teacher educator, began her teaching career working with new immigrants and refugees in an urban high school. Her research and professional interests focus on the preparation of teachers to respectfully and effectively teach diverse learners. Also a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction, she recently completed a dissertation pilot study that examines how teacher candidates learn to enact Culturally Relevant Pedagogy in a diverse school. Michelle is the founder of "A Just Education", an educational consulting firm that seeks to make schooling equitable, relevant and rigorous for all learners.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized.* (*Subject to certain rules and regulations)