



English Language Learners

Assessment and Accountability for Achievement

Event Specifics

Date: February 3, 2010

Time: 8:00–10:30 am (breakfast will be provided)

Location: Hyatt Regency Washington, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW

Our English Language Learner (ELL) student population performs less well academically and drops out of school at higher rates than their English-speaking peers. This problem will only become more profound in the future because ELLs are one of our nation's fastest growing student subgroups. Key to boosting the achievement and graduation rates of ELL students is improving systems of assessment, accountability, and support, as well as articulating policies that make possible the successful implementation of such system improvements.

Promising research and research-based practice have emerged that can inform policy. WestEd has taken stock of lessons learned from recent implementation efforts and findings from rigorous research, and we believe these lessons can positively inform the upcoming discussions regarding reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as well as assessment efforts tied to Race to the Top funding.

WestEd and its Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center are sponsoring a forum: **Assessment and Accountability for the Achievement of English Language Learners.**



You are invited to hear from an ELL expert panel on:

- appropriate means to assess the accountability of ELL students, and
- effective practices to facilitate achievement of ELL students.

Our panelists bring deep technical knowledge; experience with research, development, and technical assistance; and state, regional, and national perspectives relevant to ELL assessments, accountability, and supports. Specifically, topics that our panel will address include:

- “next generation” assessment and accountability for supporting the achievement of ELL students;
- valid indicators of ELL student growth and status; and
- how policymakers can help ensure that indicators and accountability models are consistent with what we know works in supporting ELL student achievement.

Our panelists are:

- Dr. Jamal Abedi, Professor, University of California, Davis
- Dr. Stanley Rabinowitz, Director, Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center, WestEd
- Dr. Charlene Rivera, Research Professor and Executive Director, The George Washington University Center for Equity & Excellence in Education
- Dr. Edynn Sato, Director of Research and English Language Learner Assessment, WestEd
- Ms. Joyce Zurkowski, Director of Assessment, Illinois State Board of Education.

WestEd experts, along with our partners and other nationally-known experts, will articulate the practical implications of reform strategies. As research and practice shows, successful reform requires flexibility in implementation, overcoming institutional barriers, and careful balancing of value versus burden associated with any new policy. The forum will highlight lessons learned from research and practice, demonstrating what ELL implementation experiences mean for federal policy.

...Attendance is limited...

To register for this event, please visit: <http://policyforum.eventbrite.com>

For more information, contact: Edynn Sato | 415.615.3226 | esato@wested.org

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