

District and School Support Targeting English Learners

The Need

Districts and schools are faced with numerous challenges as they strive to meet their responsibilities toward English learners. Districts and schools are expected to help English learners master rigorous college- and career-ready standards, ensure compliance with Office for Civil Rights (OCR) mandates, and cultivate staff who have the unique qualifications to be effective in teaching these students.

The AIR Approach to School Support

We understand that each district is unique—from the wide range of students’ backgrounds, to the types of instructional programming, to the resources available to support English learners.

At the district level, we review policies and practices related to meeting OCR and other federal requirements and related to implementing programs that assure the successful development of English language, literacy, and core content knowledge for English learners. We use district data to help you understand why and where certain students are excelling while others are struggling.

In schools, we work with you to strengthen English learner instruction: we observe how students interact, whether curriculum is aligned to core standards, whether instructional methods support English learners in learning English and mastering core content, and how teachers monitor student progress.

We Listen

We take time to learn about your unique circumstances.

We Observe

We spend time at the district, school, and classroom level gathering information.

We Collaborate

We work together with you to plan initiatives for English learners.

**More information about the Center for English Language Learners
at AIR can be found on our website:**

www.air.org/Englishlearners

Contact us today to learn more about how we can serve your district or school:

**Lisa Tabaku, in our Washington, DC, office: 202-403-5993 or ltabaku@air.org
Patricia Garcia-Arena, in our Chicago office: 312-588-7324 or at pgarcia-arena@air.org
Or send us an e-mail: ELLcenter@air.org**

What Kind of Assistance Do We Provide?

- We review how well your policies and programs align with OCR and other federal requirements.
- We examine your programming, curricula, and instructional practices to ensure that they represent the latest and best research related to effective instruction for English learners.
- We appraise staffing and staff professional development to ensure that the best-equipped professionals are teaching your English learners.
- We evaluate assessment systems to ensure they support schools and teachers as they work to effectively teach English learners.
- We ascertain whether English learners are properly identified for and provided with special education services that meet their needs.
- We check that the families of ELs have access to information and can meaningfully participate in their children’s education.

About AIR

Founded in 1946, American Institutes for Research (AIR) applies science to real-world issues. AIR is a national leader in teaching and learning improvement, providing the research, assessment, evaluation, and technical assistance to ensure that all students—particularly those facing historical disadvantages—have access to a high-quality, effective education.

About the Center for English Language Learners at AIR

The Center for English Language Learners at AIR is committed to reducing the achievement gap and improving outcomes for English learners by connecting rigorous research to policy and practice. Center staff conduct research related to teaching and learning; perform policy studies; provide technical assistance to states and districts to enhance English language learning; support schools in implementing COLLTS, an early learning curriculum developed by Center staff to cultivate oral language talent in students; and support schools in implementing Attaining Core Content for English Language Learners (ACCELL), AIR’s research-based approach for supporting teachers with English learners in their classrooms.