



**BILINGUAL, IMMIGRANT, AND REFUGEE EDUCATION  
DIRECTORS MEETING 2016  
AGENDA**

**TUESDAY May 10, 2016**

- 6:00am—9:00am **REGISTRATION**  
**SCHOOL SITE VISITS - FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY**
- 6:30am—7:30am Breakfast with Anchorage School District (**REDINGTON BALLROOM**)
- 7:45am Buses depart hotel  
Lunch provided at school sites
- 3:30pm—4:30pm **ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT VISIT DEBRIEF (REDINGTON BALLROOM, ALL INVITED)**  
Debrief and light refreshments at the Lakefront Anchorage Hotel
- 5:00pm—6:30pm **PRE-BRIEFING & APPRECIATION DINNER FOR BIRE PRESENTERS AND MODERATORS (LAKE SPENARD)**

**WEDNESDAY May 11, 2016**

- 6:00am—4:00pm **REGISTRATION**
- 6:30am—7:30am **BUFFET BREAKFAST (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**
- 7:30am—8:00am **WELCOME (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**  
*Ed Graff, Superintendent of Anchorage School District*  
*Gabriela Uro, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS*
- 8:00 am—8:15am **INTRODUCTION, MEETING GOALS AND PROTOCOLS**  
*Gabriela Uro, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS*
- 8:15 am—9:15am **ANCHORAGE WELCOME AND INITIATIVES TO INTEGRATE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES**  
Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor of Anchorage, will welcome BIRE participants to the city and along with First Lady Mara Kimmel, will discuss the Welcoming Anchorage (WA) initiative. The WA initiative is designed to integrate newcomers into Anchorage by breaking down barriers to its community, society and economy through prioritizing language access, civic engagement, economic integration and entrepreneurship, education. The Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation are important partners in this work.
- Presenter: *Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor of Anchorage*  
*Dr. Mara Berkowitz, First Lady of Anchorage*
- Moderator: *Gabriela Uro, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS*
- 9:15am—10:45am **ELL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

New academic standards have shifted instruction in classrooms across the country. Findings from a nationally representative study will reveal teachers' understanding and implementation of the standards, including their perceptions and practices related to key instructional approaches and their use of instructional materials. Implications will be discussed among participants, particularly as they relate to English language learners. Additionally, participants will learn about Trust-supported work related to ELL-embedded supports in ELA and math curricula and the Council's Online and Virtual PD project.

Presenter: *Crystal Gonzales*, Education Program Officer, The Helmsley Charitable Trust

Moderators: *Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS  
*Debra Hopkins*, ELL Project Coordinator, CGCS

10:45am–12:15pm TYING IT ALL TOGETHER: INNOVATIVE LESSON DESIGN, MATERIALS, AND TASKS IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

With guidance from Maryann Cucchiara and inspiration from Lily Wong Fillmore, the Boston Public Schools have become a showcase for the “3 Ls” that ELLs need: Learning, Language, and Literacy. In this session, presenters will demonstrate how they've implemented effective instruction with complex and compelling text, inspiring higher levels of achievement for their ELLs.

Presenter: *Dr. Frances Esparza*, Assistant Superintendent, Office of ELLs, Boston Public Schools  
*Farah Assiraj*, ESL Teacher and Team Leader, Boston International and Newcomer Academy

*Melissa Jones*, Lead Teacher and Grade 1 and 2 SEI teacher, J.W. Hennigan School

Moderator: TBD

**12:15pm—1:15pm LUNCH (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**

1:15pm–2:00pm IMPROVING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR ELLS: A PROJECT UPDATE

Panelists will share reflections and take-aways regarding a recent Council project to improve instructional materials for ELLs, a groundbreaking effort through which they engaged in collaborative conversations with educational publishers, resulting in substantial evolution of these materials. Participants will be encouraged to consider how they, too, may play a role in improving instructional materials for ELLs.

Panelists: *Helen Butts*, Instructional Support Partner, Network 4, Denver Public Schools  
*Farah Assiraj*, ESL Teacher and Team Leader, Boston International and Newcomer Academy

*Lily Wong Fillmore*, Professor Emerita, University of California Berkeley

*Terry Walter*, Senior Director, Instruction and Curriculum, San Diego County Office of Education

Moderator: *Debra Hopkins*, ELL Project Coordinator, CGCS

2:00pm–3:00pm OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER): PANEL DISCUSSION

Open Educational Resources continue to experience a dramatic growth; this poses many challenges for districts. How do you ensure alignment and coherence with district curricula? How do you ensure high-quality support for ELLs? How do you vet for quality? Panelists will explore these and other issues related to OER, as participants ponder the role of OER in their own districts.

Panelists: *Dr. Frances Esparza*, Assistant Superintendent, Office of ELLs, Boston Public Schools  
*Dr. Rebecca Blum-Martínez*, Director, Multicultural Education Center; Latin American Programs in Education, University of New Mexico

Moderator: *Gabriela Uro*, Director ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

3:00pm–4:30pm **IMPROVING MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION FOR ELLS: THE INTERSECTION OF LANGUAGE AND MATHEMATICAL UNDERSTANDING**  
Rigor, focus, and coherence underlie the design of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics (CCSS-M). In this session San Francisco Unified School District will describe how it used the same principles to design and develop strategies for implementation of the CCSS-M: 1) rich math tasks at the heart of our core curriculum, 2) academic discussions as the currency of learning, and 3) site-based teacher learning groups for continuous professional growth. Presenters will share their efforts in providing English learners opportunities to use receptive and productive language functions in mathematics.

Panelists: *Elizabeth Hull Barnes*, Program Administrator for Mathematics, San Francisco USD  
*Harold Asturias*, Director of the Center for Mathematics Excellence and Equity, Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley

Moderator: *Denise Walston*, Director of Mathematics, CGCS

**UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK ON MATH DOCUMENT**  
A Council-led team is currently engaged in constructing a Theory of Action and set of criteria designed to support teachers in delivering rigorous, grade-level mathematics instruction to ELLs and other students with language-related issues. In this session, participants will have an opportunity to preview this document, and provide feedback and suggestions to inform its ongoing development.

Panelists: *Liz Gamino*, Research Associate, AIMS Center for Math and Science Education  
*Harold Asturias*, Director of the Center for Mathematics Excellence and Equity, Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley  
*Denise Walston*, Director of Mathematics, CGCS

Moderator: *Debra Hopkins*, ELL Project Coordinator, CGCS

4:30pm–6:00pm **WELCOME RECEPTION AT LAKEFRONT ANCHORAGE (FLYING MACHINE RESTAURANT & PATIO)**

#### **EVENING ON YOUR OWN**

Free Hotel Shuttle to Downtown Anchorage

Shuttles depart from hotel at 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm. Shuttles back to the hotel pick-up from the Downtown drop-off location at 8pm and 9pm.

### **THURSDAY May 12, 2016**

6:00am–4:00pm **REGISTRATION**

6:30am–7:30am **BUFFET BREAKFAST (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**

- 7:30am–9:00am **PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**  
 The education of Alaska’s Native populations has ranged from English acquisition and assimilation to the incorporation of Native ways of knowing and the revitalization and preservation of Alaska Native languages. Participants will learn how Anchorage, through a variety of partnerships, has worked to align its resources, strengthen its relationships, and use data to inform their practice, leading to progress for Anchorage in reducing barriers to Alaska Native language acquisition.
- Presenter: *Doreen Brown*, Executive Director, Title VII Indian Education, Anchorage School District
- Moderator: *Lily Wong Fillmore*, Professor Emerita, University of California, Berkeley
- 9:00am–10:30am **STRENGTHENING REFUGEE SUPPORT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**  
 The Anchorage School District and Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) six-year partnership has successfully provided school support for newly arrived refugee students and families. In this session participants will learn about the past, present and future of this valuable collaboration.
- Panelists: *Jessica Kovarik*, Program Director, Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services  
*Shirley Greeninger*, Refugee Liaison Support Teacher, Anchorage School District
- Moderator: *Muhidin Warfa*, Director, Multilingual Department, Minneapolis Public Schools
- 10:30am–10:45am **BREAK**
- 10:45am–12:00pm **SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR ELLS: HIGH SCHOOLS & NEWCOMER CENTERS**  
 Maria Santos, one of the authors of the 2015 Stanford University report *Schools to Learn From: How Six High Schools Graduate ELLs College And Career Ready*, will share the report's major findings and participants will hear directly from Farah Assiraj, an educator who teaches in one of the schools covered in the report.
- Panelists: *Farah Assiraj*, ESL Teacher & Team Leader, Boston International & Newcomer Academy  
*Maria Santos*, Co-Chair, Understanding Language,
- Moderator: *Margarita Pinkos*, Executive Director, Department of Multicultural Education, The School District of Palm Beach County
- 12:00pm–1:00pm **LUNCH (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**
- 1:00pm–2:30pm **DATA AND RESEARCH**  
 Ray Hart will describe key academic indicators to monitor achievement and progress of ELLs, and discuss how to work with other departments to produce information-rich reports. Hilda Maldonado will describe how her district created its own ELL Dashboard with key indicators for monitoring student progress of ELLs.
- Panelists: *Ray Hart*, Director of Research, CGCS  
*Hilda Maldonado*, Executive Director, Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, Los Angeles USD
- Moderator: TBD
- 2:45pm–3:45pm **BREAK OUT SESSIONS—THREE CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
- Break-Out 1** **NEW ELL DIRECTORS: NETWORKING AND BUILDING CAPACITY (LAKE SPENARD I)**  
 Participants will hear from seasoned ELL Directors about skills, knowledge and practices that are important to succeed in the first years of taking leadership of an ELL Office or program.

Panelists: *Hilda Maldonado*, Executive Director, Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, Los Angeles Unified School District  
*Muhidin Warfa*, Director, Multilingual Department, Minneapolis Public Schools  
*Soledad Barreto*, Director of ELLs, Providence Public Schools (Invited)

Moderator: *Nicole Knight*, Executive Director, English Language Learner and Multilingual Achievement, Oakland USD

**Break-Out 2** The Council of the Great City Schools is partnering with the federally funded ONPAR project to conduct research and develop a concept proof of an online mathematics and science assessment specifically designed to be accessible to ELLs with beginning levels of proficiency. In this session, presenters will describe ONPAR performance tasks and how districts can participate in upcoming field-testing and other research activities.

Panelists: *Molly Wesling*, Project Manager for the IES-funded ONPAR Project  
*Drew Curtis*, Project Assistant for the IES-funded ONPAR Project.

**Break-Out 3** SELF-SELECTED TABLETOP DISCUSSIONS-- OCR Reviews, district tools & resources, ELD standards, ELLs with Disabilities, Intervention programs for ELLs, Gifted and Talented identification, Exit procedures and criteria, Time to Proficiency, ELD in High School.

Moderator: *Gabriela Uro*, Director, ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

3:45pm–4:00pm **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS OF THE PUBLISHER PASSPORT ACTIVITY**

4:45pm–8:30pm **TOUR RECEPTION/DINNER CELEBRATION AT ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER**  
Buses depart hotel at 4:45pm.

## **FRIDAY May 13, 2016**

6:00am–3:00pm **REGISTRATION**

6:30am–7:30am **BUFFET BREAKFAST (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**

7:30am–8:45am **TRENDING ISSUES: ASSESSMENT OF ELLS (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**  
Presenters from the Denver Public Schools will demonstrate how literacy achievement for Spanish-background students improves when the language of instruction is aligned to the language of assessment. They will also share their research on how long, and to what degree, English-language proficiency levels can act as a barrier to students' demonstration of proficiency on English content assessments. Presenters from SBAC will discuss the importance of implementing research-based assessments that set high expectations and provide equitable access for English learners.

Panelists: Denver Public Schools—  
*Jorge Robles*, Executive Director English Language Acquisition Department  
*Katherine Beck, M.A.*, Strategic Analytics Manager  
*Adrienne Endres, M.Ed.*, ELA Partner

Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, UCLA—  
*Magda Y. Chia, Ph.D.*, Deputy Director, System Design and Director of Support for Under-Represented Students, Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC)  
*Dr. Rachel Kachchaf*, Director, Support for Students (SBAC)

Moderator: *Regina Boyd*, Director of English Language Learner Services, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

8:45am–10:00am ELL MASTER PLANS: BEYOND COMPLIANCE  
Nicole Knight from Oakland Unified will share how her team developed a three-year strategic plan, the *OUSD Roadmap to ELL Achievement*, grounded in a review of programs and services conducted by Stanford University. She will share how this body of work has become a lever for change in a politically complex context. The Clark County School District recognized the need to fundamentally shift their approach on how English Language Learners (ELLs) are educated in CCSD. Ignacio Ruiz from Clark County will share how his team, in partnership with WestEd, developed a five-year Master Plan for ELL Success.

Panelists: *Nicole Knight*, Executive Director, English Language Learner and Multilingual Achievement, Oakland USD  
*Ignacio Ruiz*, Assistant Superintendent, English Language Learner Division, Clark County School District

Moderator: *Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

10:00 am–10:15am **BREAK**

10:15am–12:00pm EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
These breakouts provide participants with an opportunity to participate in a mini-version of the Instructional Materials project, entering into collaborative conversations with publishers and providing specific, actionable feedback regarding new (or in-development) materials for ELLs.

Group #1 Leaders: Terry Walter, TBD

Group #2 Leaders: Helen Butts, Lily Wong Fillmore

Moderator: *Debra Hopkins*, ELL Project Coordinator, CGCS

12:00pm–1:00pm **LUNCH (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**

1:00pm–3:00pm FEDERAL UPDATE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ESSA  
Council staff will provide a federal update including issues related Refugees and Unaccompanied Minors, and participants will have an opportunity to discuss implementation issues of the latest reauthorization of the ESEA, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Panelists: *Manish Naik*, Manager of Legislative Services, CGCS  
*Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

3:00pm–4:00pm DISTRICT MATERIALS GALLERY (**LAKE SPENARD**)

5:00pm–9:00pm **BIRE PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES**

✓ **Anchorage Art Museum**-- Hotel Shuttle departs at 5pm and 5:45pm in front of the hotel. Shuttle back to the hotel will pick-up from the Anchorage Art Museum at 8pm and 9pm.

**or**

✓ **Bike Rentals** will be available outside of the hotel in the employee parking lot. All bikes must be returned by 8pm to avoid incurring a fee.

**SATURDAY May 14, 2016**

- 7:00 am **BUFFET BREAKFAST (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**
- 8:00am–9:00am **COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATES (REDINGTON BALLROOM)**  
*COUNCIL TOOL: A GUIDE FOR JUDGING DISTRICT-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION OF COLLEGE AND CAREER-READINESS STANDARDS*  
This session will focus on a review and discussion of a new tool developed by the Council to support member districts. The draft document, *Indicators of Success: A Guide for Judging District-Level Implementation of College and Career-Readiness Standards*, includes indicators that districts might use to track their progress on implementation of college and career-readiness standards in ways that build in attention to the involvement of cross-functional teams and success of all students.
- Presenter: *Denise Walston*, Director of Mathematics, CGCS  
Moderator: *Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS
- 9:00am–10:00am **2016 BIRE DEBRIEF**  
Goals and objectives, issues, and venue for future meetings will be discussed.
- 10:00am **BIRE PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES**