

**BILINGUAL, IMMIGRANT, AND REFUGEE EDUCATION MEETING  
2023 | GREENSBORO, NC  
AGENDA**



**Tuesday, May 02, 2023 – School Visits**

6:30 am – 7:00 am	<b>BREAKFAST AND CHECK-IN</b>	<b>HIGH POINT / GREENSBORO</b>
7:00 am – 3:00 pm	<b>SCHOOL VISITS – PRE-REGISTERED ATTENDEES ONLY</b>	
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:30 am – 5:30 pm	<b>SCHOOL VISIT DEBRIEF</b>	<b>HIGH POINT / GREENSBORO</b>
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	<b>WELCOME RECEPTION</b>	<b>HIGH POINT / GREENSBORO</b>

**Wednesday, May 03, 2023**

7:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<b>FOYER</b>
7:00 am – 8:00 am	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>
8:00 am – 8:30 am	<b>GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS WELCOME</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>

PRESENTERS:

*Whitney Oakley*, Superintendent, Guilford County  
*Ray Hart*, Executive Director, CGCS

8:30 am – 9:30 am	<b>MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>
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This session will frame and set the tone for BIRE 2023. EL program directors and staff ensure that English learners and multilingual students are visible within school district ecosystems, providing them equal access to the curriculum and educational initiatives. Equity-focused work means seeing beyond broad categories, examining in a nuanced way the assets and needs of the heterogeneous English learner and immigrant student communities to create responsive programs and initiatives. Council staff will share examples of data analyses that reveal unique assets and needs. Educators from Austin ISD and the District of Columbia Public Schools will guide participants through a case study of the current landscape and shared experiences of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) students and educators that underscores the importance of understanding in nuanced ways the demographics of EL and immigrant-origin populations. This nuanced understanding of richly heterogeneous multilingual communities is vital for making sure that ALL are visible within the educational system.

FACILITATOR:

*Aaron Park*, EL Policy Fellow, CGCS

PRESENTERS:

*Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Research and Policy, CGCS  
*Jiae Kim-Batra*, Executive Director for Secondary Schools, Austin  
*Maria Joie Austria*, Director of Curriculum, Strategy and School Supports, DCPS

9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>ENSURING THAT ALL ELS ARE VISIBLE TO DISTRICT PROGRAMS</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>
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Participants will learn how three districts are implementing SEL programs and services that are responsive to the unique needs of refugees and other recently arrived students and families. Houston ISD will describe how its SEL services and programs meet the unique needs of refugee students. Austin ISD will describe its processes for SEL-focused communication with families as well as the guidance provided to front office staff, teachers, and administrators to welcome recently arrived families. Guilford County and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro

(UNCG) will share how their partnership has enabled the district to provide psychological and counseling sessions to EL families.

FACILITATOR:

*Farah Assiraj, Chief of Teaching and Learning, CGCS*

PRESENTERS:

*Wagma Isaqzoy, Program Manager of High Schools, SEL, Houston*  
*Cody Fernandez, Director, Secondary Multilingual Education, Austin*  
*Andy Johnson, Coordinator for International Welcome Center, Austin*  
*Mayra Hayes, EL Director, Guilford County*

10:30 am – 10:45 am **BREAK**  
10:30 am – 11:30 am **EXPANDING EL ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS** **GRAND BALLROOM**

Baltimore City Schools will describe its latest strategies developed and implemented over the last five years to increase EL access to gifted and advanced learning (GAL) programs, supports, and services. Systemic shifts in how and when universal screening occurs and increased collaboration between the ESOL and GAL offices have significantly increased the identification of ELs in the district's tiers of GAL programming. Omaha Public Schools will discuss its progress toward identifying more ELs for GATE through collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Education and the National Center for Gifted Research. Pinellas County Schools will describe an enrichment STEM summer camp that breaks the cycle of remediation and sets ELs on a path to acceleration and increased representation in gifted and talented programs. Pinellas will also describe how ESOL teachers are paired with gifted teachers, leading to an exchange of knowledge, experiences, language, and friendship during the summer STEM camp.

FACILITATOR:

*Carlos Bartesaghi, EL Coordinator, Guilford County*

PRESENTERS:

*Maria Reamore, ESOL Coordinator, Baltimore*  
*Jaimie Cogua, EL Coordinator, Omaha*  
*Beth Maloney, Teaching and Learning Consultant, Omaha*  
*Natasa Karac, Director of EL Services, Pinellas County*

11:30 am – 11:35 am **TRANSITION**  
11:35 am – 12:35 pm **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS I**  
*Breakout 1* **DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS** **GRAND BALLROOM**

NYCPS' Division of Multilingual Learners (DML) will share its multi-faceted initiative to expand and strengthen existing dual language programs. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the requirements for expanding dual language programs, including:

- Addressing the critical shortage of bilingual educators, including teachers, support personnel, and administrators;
- Teaching foundational skills for biliteracy;
- Implementing dual language programs in middle and high school (i.e., structure, staffing, etc.);
- Promoting access and inclusion for students with disabilities; and
- Implementing assessments, progress monitoring, and interventions.

FACILITATOR:

*Tammy Alsace, Independent Consultant, CGCS*

PRESENTER:

*Yuderquis Santos*, Director of Bilingual (TBE-DL) Curriculum and Instruction, NYC

*Breakout 2*

**EL ACCESS TO GIFTED AND TALENTED**

**HIGH POINT / GREENSBORO**

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will share strategies and processes to identify gifted ELs/multilingual learners at the elementary level and that provide strategic access to CTE pathways. Participants will also learn about related curriculum development efforts to amplify language.

PRESENTER:

*Charlotte "Nadja" Trez*, Executive Director, Learning and Language Acquisition, Charlotte-Mecklenburg

*Breakout 3*

**MEETING THE NEEDS OF NEWCOMERS AND SLIFE**

**PIEDMONT**

St. Paul Public Schools will explain a partnership between the Office of Multilingual Learning and the Student Placement Center to identify SLIFE and determine EL eligibility in addition to developing student onboarding materials, translated videos on navigating the city bus system, and key documents shared with students and families in the five most-spoken languages. NYCPS' Division of Multilingual Learners will discuss "SIFeshare," an interactive professional learning network designed to support educators as they build strong learning communities with SIFE (Students with Interrupted/Inconsistent Formal Education) and newly arrived ELs.

PRESENTERS:

*Sarah Schmidt de Carranza*, Executive Director, Office of Multilingual Learning, St. Paul  
*Joel Troge*, Director, Long-term ELLs, Newcomers and SIFE, MLS, NYC

12:35 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	<b>MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE USING STUDENT, SCHOOL, AND DISTRICT DATA</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>

Rebecca Callahan will present findings on the K-16 trajectories of *ever-English learners* from a recent longitudinal study using a large data set of English learners in Texas. Participants will learn about positive findings, such as higher-than-anticipated graduation rates of high school ever-ELs, as well as findings about persistent challenges, such as lower actual college-going rates. Guilford County Schools will share the findings and new insights that emerged from the district's deep dive into its long-term EL data, showing the value of making long-term EL data visible to better inform targeted responses to meet the specific needs of long-term ELs revealed by the data.

FACILITATOR:

*David Lai*, ELL Research and Policy Manager, CGCS

PRESENTERS:

*Rebecca Callahan*, Professor, University of Vermont  
*Mayra Hayes*, EL Director, Guilford County

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>BREAK</b>	
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2:45 pm – 4:45 pm **CGCS VISION FOR FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS INSTRUCTION FOR ELs** **GRAND BALLROOM**

The Council EL team will walk participants through the *Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction for English Learners* framework to become familiar with its components. Time will be provided to answer questions from districts as well as materials developers and publishers.

PRESENTERS:

*Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Research and Policy, CGCS  
*David Lai*, ELL Research and Policy Manager, CGCS  
*Aaron Park*, EL Policy Fellow, CGCS

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm **MAD SPLATTER OUTING**

- **Departure Bus from Hotel:** Hotel Main Entrance @ 5:30 PM
- **Return Bus to Hotel:** Mad Splatter (2917 Battleground Ave, Greensboro, NC 27408) @ 8:45 PM

**Thursday, May 04, 2023**

7:00 am – 4:00 pm **REGISTRATION** **FOYER**

7:00 am – 8:00 am **BREAKFAST** **GRAND BALLROOM**

8:00 am – 8:30 am **VALUING OUR IMMIGRANT STUDENT COMMUNITIES** **GRAND BALLROOM**

Experienced high school teacher and author Jessica Lander will lead an engaging session on valuing immigrant student communities. Equipped with the experience of and insights from teaching immigrant students, Jessica has traveled across the nation to learn about and highlight the work that school districts do to uplift immigrant students and communities.

PRESENTER:

*Jessica Lander*, Teacher, Advocate, and Author of *Making Americans*

8:30 am – 9:30 am **EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF EL AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES** **GRAND BALLROOM**

Austin ISD will share its best practices, including working with community organizations, to support effective communication and engagement with recently arrived refugee and newcomer families. St. Paul Public Schools will share details about its *family coach* position to coordinate community partners to support students and their families. Family coaches receive academic support training in addition to trauma-informed professional development. Participants will also learn about St. Paul’s partnership with the state’s Department of Human Service Office of Refugee Resettlement to help connect students and their families with cash assistance, healthcare, tutoring services, and other state programs. Denver Public Schools will share its initiatives to engage and connect with families of multilingual learners. Participants will learn about Community Hubs, Family Engagement and Empowerment Committees, Parent Advisory Committees, and MLE District Advisory Committees that build authentic relationships with immigrant and refugee families and students, elevate family voices, and connect families to resources that empower and enhance family advocacy skills in support of their child’s education.

FACILITATOR:

*H’Lidi Buonya*, Title III Parent Liaison, Guilford County

PRESENTERS:

*Cody Fernandez*, Director, Secondary Multilingual Education, Austin  
*Andy Johnson*, Coordinator for International Welcome Center, Austin  
*Sophie Ly*, Assistant Director, Office of Multilingual Learning, St. Paul  
*Valeria Praga*, Multilingual Education Director, Denver

CGCS will guide an interactive review of the findings from the Council’s newcomers and SIFE/SLIFE survey to examine the trends about concerns related to meeting the needs of newcomer students. Minneapolis Public Schools will share its efforts working with partner agencies to welcome and support the more than 1,100 newcomers arriving in SY 2022-23. Participants will learn about advocacy efforts to access district resources and the specialized professional development and instructional support geared to staff and school leaders to support newcomer students. New York City Public Schools will detail its *Stand Alone English as a New Language* (ENL) model to provide multilingual learners with access to grade-level text in all their classrooms. Participants will hear about how the district is creating spaces where newcomer MLLs feel safe and comfortable to grapple with these texts during the dedicated English language development period.

**FACILITATOR:**

*Vanina Hackett*, EL Coordinator, Guilford County

**PRESENTERS:**

*Aaron Park*, EL Policy Fellow, CGCS

*Muhidin Warfa*, Executive Director, Multilingual and Magnet Programs, Minneapolis

*Megan Demorest*, District Program Facilitator, ELD, Minneapolis

*Muhammad Tayyeb*, Afghan Cultural Facilitator, Minneapolis

*Jamie Baez*, Director Secondary ENL/ELA, DML, NYC

10:45 am – 11:00 am	<b>BREAK</b>	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>MATERIALS REVIEW SESSION I</b>	
<i>Breakout 1</i>	<b>THINKCERCA</b> FACILITATOR: <i>Tammy Alsace</i> , Consultant, CGCS	<b>HIGH POINT / GREENSBORO</b>
<i>Breakout 2</i>	<b>TALKING POINTS</b> FACILITATOR: <i>Elizabeth Biester</i> , Guilford County	<b>PIEDMONT</b>
<i>Breakout 3</i>	<b>HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT</b> FACILITATOR: <i>Alfonsina Denegri</i> , Guilford County	<b>CARDINAL</b>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>MATERIALS REVIEW SESSION II</b>	
<i>Breakout 1</i>	<b>AMPLIFY</b> FACILITATOR: <i>Farah Assiraj</i> , Chief of Teaching and Learning, CGCS	<b>HIGH POINT / GREENSBORO</b>
<i>Breakout 2</i>	<b>CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES</b> FACILITATOR: <i>Aaron Park</i> , EL Policy Fellow, CGCS	<b>PIEDMONT</b>
<i>Breakout 3</i>	<b>RENAISSANCE</b> FACILITATOR: <i>Akisha Osei Sarfo</i> , Research Director, CGCS	<b>CARDINAL</b>
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	<b>TRANSITION</b>	
2:10 pm – 3:10 pm	<b>STRATEGIC STAFFING FOR EL PROGRAMS—ROLES AND FTE ALLOCATION</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>

Minneapolis Public Schools will share a new FTE allocation strategy for ESL teachers in SY 2023-24 in response to a large number of newly arriving students. The district’s efforts to recruit and retain bilingual staff of color will also be discussed. Omaha Public Schools will share an FTE allocation method for EL supports aligned to Nebraska AQuESST and the ESSA school

designation (CSI, ATSI EL Group, etc.). Omaha’s revised EL service model and the role that *multilingual learner specialists* play in model delivery will also be discussed.

FACILITATOR:

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

PRESENTERS:

*Muhidin Warfa, Executive Director, Multilingual and Magnet Programs, Minneapolis*  
*Chris Sanville, Title III Compliance District Program Facilitator, Minneapolis*  
*Jaimie Cogua, EL Coordinator, Omaha*  
*Rebecca Mussack, EL Teacher Leader, Omaha*

3:10 pm – 3:25 pm	<b>BREAK</b>	
3:25 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>CORE PRINCIPLES AND CONTEXTUAL FACTORS OF EL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>
Ester de Jong will present research on the contextual factors that shape EL program models. She will also elaborate on the importance of having core principles that anchor dynamic models for developing languages rather than static models.		

FACILITATOR:

*David Lai, ELL Research and Policy Manager, CGCS*

PRESENTER:

*Ester de Jong, Professor of Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education, University of Colorado, Denver*

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:45 pm – 5:30 pm	<b>RECEPTION</b>	
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm	<b>DOWNTOWN FOR DINNER (DINNER ON YOUR OWN)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Departure Bus from Hotel:</b> Hotel Main Entrance @ 5:30 PM</li> <li>• <b>Return Bus to Hotel:</b> International Civil Rights Center &amp; Museum (134 S Elm St, Greensboro, NC 27401) @ 8:45 PM</li> </ul>		

**Friday, May 05, 2023**

7:00 am – 8:00 am	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>ENSURING TIERED SUPPORTS MEET EL NEEDS</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>

NYCPS will describe initiatives focused on ensuring that MTSS for English learners provides a realistic picture of education for ELs, grounded in strong core instruction that builds on the assets ELs bring. St. Paul Public Schools will describe a framework designed to support sites in developing and integrating EL goals within their school improvement plans to complement Tier I reading and math goals. The district will also discuss needs assessment, targeted professional development, and continuous monitoring and support for the entire school, not just the EL teachers and students. Farah Assiraj will share the work underway to update the Council’s MTSS framework with a focus on equity and explicit attention to the needs of ELs.

FACILITATOR:

*Tiffany A. Perkins, Interim Assistant Superintendent—Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development, Guilford County*

PRESENTERS:

*Stela Radovanovic, Executive Director, Research, Instruction and Professional Learning, DML, NYC*  
*Sophie Ly, Assistant Director, Office of Multilingual Learning, St. Paul*  
*Farah Assiraj, Chief of Teaching and Learning, CGCS*

9:00 am – 10:00 am **EL PROGRAM REVIEWS - OVERVIEW AND UPDATES** **GRAND BALLROOM**  
 The Council’s EL Team will provide an overview of its EL program review process. Districts that are undergoing their own program reviews and program improvement efforts can share updates.

PRESENTERS:

*Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Research and Policy, CGCS  
*David Lai*, ELL Research and Policy Manager, CGCS

10:00 am – 11:00 am **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS II**

*Breakout 1* **ROUNDTABLE: NEW & EXPERIENCED EL PROGRAM DIRECTORS** **PIEDMONT**  
 In this informal exchange, relatively new EL program directors can ask questions and learn from more seasoned EL program directors. Experienced EL program directors can share their insights and lessons learned.

*Breakout 2* **IMPLEMENTING DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS** **GRAND BALLROOM**  
 Guilford County will share details about an Urdu-English dual language program to spur discussion about common areas of interest and concern, including:

- Addressing the critical shortage of bilingual educators, including teachers, support personnel, and administrators;
- Teaching foundational skills for biliteracy;
- Implementing dual language programs in middle and high school (structure, staffing, etc.);
- Promoting access and Inclusion for students with disabilities; and
- Implementing assessment, progress monitoring, and intervention.

FACILITATOR:

*Tammy Alsace*, Independent Consultant, CGCS

PRESENTER:

*Carla Flores Ballesteros*, Allen Jay Elementary Principal, Guilford County

*Breakout 3* **DEVELOPING PROTOCOLS & GUIDANCE FOR IDENTIFYING SLIFE FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAM PLACEMENT** **HIGH POINT / GREENSBORO**  
 The Council’s EL Team and staff from CUNY’s Second Language Acquisition Lab (SLAL) will conduct a working session to explore next steps in developing sample protocols for identifying SLIFE and assessing literacy and numeracy to make proper placements that build on students’ knowledge. Participants will learn about piloting opportunities.

PRESENTERS:

*Jennifer Chard*, Project Director for Multilingual Literacy SIFE Screener, CUNY’s Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society  
*Gabriela Uro*, Director of ELL Research and Policy, CGCS

11:00 am – 11:15 am **BREAK**

11:15 am – 12:00 pm **PROFESSIONAL JOURNEYS: STORIES & INSIGHTS** **GRAND BALLROOM**  
 Participants will hear stories and insights from the professional journeys of fellow educators and administrators who have experience in the EL space and have moved into senior positions. Participants will gain wisdom and inspiration from their stories and insights on how to prepare for a fulfilling professional journey.

FACILITATOR:

*Mayra Hayes*, EL Director, Guilford County

PRESENTERS:

*Jusmar Maness*, Chief Academic Officer, Guilford County

*Valeria Silva*, Leadership Consultant (former Superintendent, St. Paul Public Schools)

*Farah Assiraj*, Chief of Teaching and Learning, CGCS (former Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Boston Public Schools)

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>PLANNING: REVIEW OF FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS MATERIALS FOR ELS</b>	<b>GRAND BALLROOM</b>

Planning for an in-person review of instructional materials for foundational skills literacy development for ELs using the Council’s newly released criteria will be discussed. The 2-day meeting is projected to take place in late June or mid-July, depending on availability.

**EVENING ON YOUR OWN**

**Saturday, May 06, 2023**

8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>PIEDMONT</b>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>COUNCIL PROJECTS</b> Ongoing projects will be shared for discussion and feedback. Attendees will be invited to share pressing issues to inform upcoming projects.	<b>PIEDMONT</b>
9:30 am – 10:00 am	<b>BIRE 2024 PLANNING</b> Goals, issues, and venues for future meetings will be discussed.	<b>PIEDMONT</b>
10:00 am	<b>MEETING ADJOURNMENT</b>	