



Bilingual, Immigrant, and Refugee Education Meeting

Minneapolis, MN | May 6-11, 2024

***Creative and Courageous Leadership:
Recognizing Demographic Shifts as New Chances for Equity***

MEETING AGENDA

Monday, May 06, 2024 – St. Paul School Visits		
7:00 am – 8:00 am	BREAKFAST AND CHECK-IN	NORWAY 1,2,3
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	SCHOOL VISITS – PRE-REGISTERED ATTENDEES ONLY	
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	BREAK	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	SCHOOL VISIT DEBRIEF	NORWAY 1,2,3
EVENING ON YOUR OWN		

Tuesday, May 07, 2024 – Minneapolis School Visits		
7:00 am – 8:00 am	BREAKFAST AND CHECK-IN	NORWAY 1,2,3
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	SCHOOL VISITS – PRE-REGISTERED ATTENDEES ONLY	
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	BREAK	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	SCHOOL VISIT DEBRIEF	NORWAY 1,2,3
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	PRE-MEETING RECEPTION	FINLAND

Wednesday, May 08, 2024		
7:00 am – 12:00 pm	REGISTRATION	DENMARK COMMONS
7:00 am – 8:00 am	BREAKFAST	FJORDS 1,2,3
8:00 am – 8:30 am	MINNEAPOLIS WELCOME	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
	Representatives from Minneapolis Public Schools and the Council of the Great City Schools will welcome attendees and provide opening remarks.	
	PRESENTERS: <i>Lisa Sayles-Adams</i> , Superintendent, Minneapolis <i>Joe Gothard</i> , CGCS Executive Committee Member, Superintendent, St. Paul	
8:30 am – 9:00 am	WELCOME AND MEETING LOGISTICS	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
	The Council’s English Learners (EL) Team will welcome attendees and provide an overview of the meeting logistics. Participants will learn about the <i>Challenge of Practice Work Sessions</i> —dedicated daily time to work on a challenge of practice in small groups with the assistance of expert thought-partners.	
	PRESENTERS: <i>Gabriela Uro</i> , Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS <i>David Lai</i> , Manager of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS	
9:00 am – 10:00 am	COURAGE TO LEAD COMPLEX SHIFTS	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
	This session will frame and set the tone for BIRE 2024. Former St. Paul Superintendent Valeria Silva will delve into the challenges and opportunities of leading in times of change—and explain why courageous leadership is essential to elevate outcomes for English learners.	
	PRESENTER: <i>Valeria Silva</i> , Leadership Consultant (Former Superintendent, St. Paul)	
10:00 am – 10:15 am	BREAK	

10:15 am – 12:15 pm **NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY AND WELL-BEING** **SCANDINAVIAN 3,4**
 Education professionals are under unprecedented stress. Human Performance and Well-being Expert Lauren Hodges will explain the various stress personalities and help participants harness this knowledge for stress management.

FACILITATOR:

Gabriela Uro, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

PRESENTER:

Lauren Hodges, Consultant, Performance on Purpose

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm **LUNCH** **FJORDS 1,2,3**

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm **FRAMING WITH DATA AND EVIDENCE OF ENGLISH LEARNER PERFORMANCE** **SCANDINAVIAN 3,4**

The challenge of practice work sessions will engage participants in reflecting on current EL performance and planning to monitor and evaluate new strategies. The Council’s Research Team will provide an overview of the English learners data landscape and the CGCS Academic KPI project. Minneapolis Public Schools will discuss data use and infrastructure, highlighting district-level challenges and considerations for collecting and using EL data to support and enhance EL education. District leaders will discuss the evolution of data practices centered around English learners (ELs), highlighting the integration of student information systems and specialized data platforms.

FACILITATOR:

David Lai, ELL Policy and Research Manager, CGCS

PRESENTERS:

Akisha Osei Sarfo, Director of Research, CGCS

Patti Lagos, K-12 Multilingual Content Lead, Minneapolis

Wes Nemenz, K-12 Multilingual Content Lead, Minneapolis

Megan Demorest, K-12 Multilingual Content Lead, Minneapolis

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm **OVERVIEW OF THE CHALLENGES OF PRACTICE** **SCANDINAVIAN 3,4**

Experts and practitioners will provide an overview of the challenge of practice topic areas, highlighting the importance of each topic, discussing persistent challenges, and sharing available, relevant resources. The overview will help participants select a topic area for the challenge of practice work sessions.

FACILITATOR:

Gabriela Uro, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

PRESENTERS:

Newcomers – *Jen Chard*, City University of New York

MTSS & ELs—*Julie Esparza-Brown*, Portland State University

Access to Rigor—*Okhee Lee*, New York University

Oral Language Development – *Aida Walqui*, National Research and Development Center to Improve Education for Secondary ELs

EL Service Models—*David Lai*, CGCS

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm **BREAK**

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **CHALLENGE OF PRACTICE: PROBLEM DEFINITION** **ASSIGNED ON SITE**

Scandinavian 3,4

Scandinavian 1,2

Norway 1,2,3

Fjords 4

Copenhagen

Participants will select an area of focus and determine a challenge of practice based on an examination of current practices and the extant data or metrics that substantiate the identified challenge of practice.

Oslo

FACILITATORS:

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

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	BREAK AND TRANSITION	
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION	DENMARK COMMONS

Thursday, May 09, 2024

7:00 am – 4:00 pm	REGISTRATION	DENMARK COMMONS
7:00 am – 8:00 am	BREAKFAST	FJORDS 1,2,3

8:00 am – 9:00 am **UNDERSTANDING DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS** **SCANDINAVIAN 3,4**
Award-winning journalist Juan González, host of *Democracy Now!*—a daily, global, independent news hour—will present on the importance of understanding the geopolitical forces, and specifically the role of the U.S., that result in newcomers arriving in U.S. schools. His recently updated publication *Harvest of Empire* underscores the importance of promoting critical thinking and affirming narratives in teaching about world and U.S. history to build an understanding of the push and pull factors of migration across the globe. Participants will receive a copy of his book.

PRESENTER:

Juan González, Journalist, *Democracy Now!*

9:00 am – 10:00 am **ENGLISH LEARNERS SUCCEEDING IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE** **SCANDINAVIAN 3,4**
Science And Integrated Language (SAIL) is an NSF-funded NYC project to develop NGSS-aligned instructional materials that constitute a yearlong fifth-grade curriculum for students and teachers to promote science and language learning for all students, including English learners. The [NYU SAIL](#) team will describe the SAIL project and its findings about the important shift to doing science using language. Additionally, the team will demonstrate how science learning and language learning overlap.

FACILITATOR:

David Lai, Manager of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

PRESENTERS:

Okhee Lee, Professor, New York University
Abigail Schwenger, Research Associate, NYU SAIL Team
Iovanna Williams, Teacher, Mount Eden Children's Academy (NYC), NYU SAIL Project

10:00 am – 10:15 am	BREAK	
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10:15 am – 11:15 am **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Breakout 1 **STEM EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT** **SCANDINAVIAN 3,4**
The NYU SAIL team will share concrete examples of how EL teachers support science learning through language development and discuss how to support the integration of language development in science education.

PRESENTERS:

Okhee Lee, Professor, New York University
Abigail Schwenger, Research Associate, NYU SAIL Team
Iovanna Williams, Teacher, Mount Eden Children's Academy (NYC), NYU SAIL Project

Breakout 2 **SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH LIMITED OR INTERRUPTED FORMAL EDUCATION** **SCANDINAVIAN 1,2**
Cleveland Metropolitan School District will share the research and committee work led by the Multilingual Multicultural Education Department to establish the EL High School Acceleration Program that provides non-traditional opportunities for students to receive credit for courses

taken abroad and accelerated pathways to earn credit for high school graduation and workforce preparedness.

Albuquerque Public Schools will share how the Newcomer Summer Program for students in grades 6-12 came into being through leveraging partnerships with Albuquerque’s local refugee resettlement agency and multiple community partners, and funding from multiple sources. The program offers a diverse curriculum, including math, social studies, English, music, and art, supplemented by weekly field trips to local cultural sites and instruction in navigating local transportation. Participants will learn about the program’s two-year successes in facilitating academic, cultural, and social integration for newcomers and SIFE.

FACILITATOR:

Megan Demorest, K-12 Multilingual Content Lead, Minneapolis

PRESENTERS:

Jose Gonzales, Executive Director, Multilingual Programs, Cleveland

Antonio Baca, Refugees and Newcomer Supports Program Manager, Albuquerque

Breakout 3

DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

NORWAY 1,2,3

Minneapolis Public Schools will highlight key factors for successfully implementing dual language programs at the secondary level. Chicago Public Schools’ Language and Culture Office and English Learners Success Forum (ELSF) will share their collaborative experience in developing and using new guidelines for selecting high-quality Spanish Language Arts materials.

PRESENTERS:

Maureen Dowling, Roosevelt High School DL Coordinator, Minneapolis

Olimpia Bahena, Deputy Chief of Language and Cultural Education, Chicago

Rebecca Blum Martinez, National Dual Language Advisor, ELSF

11:15 am – 11:25 am	TRANSITION	
11:25 am – 12:25 pm	MATERIALS REVIEW SESSION I	
<i>Breakout 1</i>	AMPLIFY	SCANDINAVIAN 1,2
<i>Breakout 2</i>	CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES	NORWAY 1,2,3
<i>Breakout 3</i>	ENGAGE2LEARN	FJORDS 4
<i>Breakout 4</i>	TALKINGPOINTS	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
12:25 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH	FJORDS 1,2,3
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	INSTRUCTIONAL RIGOR ACROSS CONTENT AREAS	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4

District of Columbia Public Schools will share an approach to prepare and support teachers to scaffold math instruction for multilingual learners within Tier 1, 2, and 3 settings. The approach ensures that math lessons for multilingual learners include intentional scaffolding without diluting the content. Progress monitoring data used to show evidence that MLs are learning and growing in mathematics will be shared.

Omaha Public Schools will describe the professional learning provided to all teachers, centered on *High Expectations: Ensuring Students Achieve Academic Goals*. The presenter will share how the EL Office—a key member of the professional learning team—collaborated across content areas and departments to design and deliver the professional learning series focused on effective scaffolding across disciplines. Participants will learn how the district is leveraging PLCs to accelerate student achievement.

FACILITATOR:

Aimee Fearing, Senior Officer of Academics, Minneapolis

PRESENTERS:

Maria Austria, Director of Curriculum Strategy and School Supports, District of Columbia
Jaimie Cagua, EL Coordinator, Omaha

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

CHALLENGE OF PRACTICE WORK SESSION

ASSIGNED ON SITE

Scandinavian 3,4
Scandinavian 1,2
Norway 1,2,3
Fjords 4
Copenhagen
Oslo

The second day of the challenge of practice practicum/exercise will be devoted to elaborating on the proposed responses or solutions to the identified challenge of practice, detailing specific actions needed, required district resources and support, as well as anticipating intended and unintended outcomes for distinct stakeholders. District teams will weigh all of these factors to select the final response or solution to be implemented.

FACILITATOR:

Gabriela Uro, Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

WORK SESSIONS:

Newcomers
MTSS & ELs
Access to Rigor
Oral Language Development
EL Service Models

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

BREAK

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

STUDENT VOICES TO INFORM SERVICES AND INSTRUCTION

SCANDINAVIAN 3,4

In two 30-minute panels, Minneapolis Public Schools and St. Paul Public Schools students will share their aspirations and experiences within English learner programs in the post-pandemic context. The panelists will inform participants about bright spots in programs and raise potential blind spots or persisting challenges to address.

FACILITATOR:

Corina Pastrana, District Program Facilitator, Bilingual Seals Program, Minneapolis

5:15 pm – 5:30 pm

BREAK AND TRANSITION

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

GROUP ACTIVITY – WHIRLYBALL – DRESS COMFORTABLY

- **Departure Bus from Hotel:** Royal Sonesta Main Entrance @ 5:30 PM
- **Return Bus to Hotel:** WhirlyBall Main Entrance @ 8:15 PM

Friday, May 10, 2024

7:00 am – 8:00 am

BREAKFAST

FJORDS 1,2,3

8:00 am – 9:00 am

INNOVATIVE AND EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

SCANDINAVIAN 3,4

St. Paul Public Schools will share the effort underway to provide job-embedded coaching through deliberate cross-departmental collaboration that meets the varied professional learning needs of distinct groups of teachers, including general education teachers and teachers working with distinct typologies of English learners. Council staff and Guilford County Schools will provide an update on the *Teaching Academic Writing to ELs* professional learning courses, co-developed with the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Pathway to Academic Success Project, including findings from Guilford's experience with the pilot courses and timeline for course development completion.

FACILITATOR:

Farah Assiraj, Chief of Teaching and Learning, CGCS

PRESENTERS:

Sophie Ly, Assistant Director, Office of Multilingual Learners, St. Paul
David Lai, Manager of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS
Soledad Lardies-Dunst, EL Coordinator, Guilford County

9:00 am – 10:00 am	MATERIALS REVIEW SESSION II	
<i>Breakout 1</i>	JUST RIGHT READER	SCANDINAVIAN 1,2
<i>Breakout 2</i>	RENAISSANCE LEARNING	NORWAY 1,2,3
<i>Breakout 3</i>	THINKCERCA	FJORDS 4
<i>Breakout 4</i>	ELLEVATION EDUCATION	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
10:00 am – 11:30 am	CHALLENGE OF PRACTICE FINAL WORK SESSION	ASSIGNED ON SITE
Scandinavian 3,4	The third day of the challenge of practice practicum/exercise will be devoted to detailing the next steps of an overall plan to address the challenge of practice as part of a broader implementation plan. District teams will also outline a corresponding communication plan that generates buy-in and sustained organizational support/resources to achieve the desired outcomes.	
Scandinavian 1,2		
Norway 1,2,3		
Fjords 4		
Copenhagen		
Oslo	WORK SESSIONS: Newcomers MTSS & ELs Access to Rigor Oral Language Development EL Service Models	
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	CHALLENGE OF PRACTICE WRAP-UP: ACTION PLANS AND NEXT STEPS	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
	District teams will present the results of the challenge of practice practicum/exercise. A district team from each focus area will present the identified challenge of practice, the proposed response/solution with examples of detailed steps and resource requirements, and describe the draft communication plan. Non-presenting district teams will share their work via flipcharts posted around the room. Time for a gallery walk will be provided at the end of the session.	
	FACILITATOR: <i>Gabriela Uro</i> , Director of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS	
	PRESENTERS: Volunteer District Teams (Selected on Site)	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH	FJORDS 1,2,3
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	BREAKING DOWN SILOS	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
	Minneapolis Public Schools will share efforts to foster a collaborative environment that integrates language development and core academic instruction to ensure students in dual language programs receive comprehensive support throughout their educational experience.	
	Denver Public Schools will share a journey of examining collaboration across academic departments to co-create a vision for success and an action plan for effective school support, with a focus on welcoming a significant influx of new arrivals. Participants will learn about the professional learning, tools, resources, and supports for developing lessons that embed effective supports for multilingual learners across content areas.	
	FACILITATOR: <i>Maria Rollinger</i> , Deputy Senior Officer of Academics, Minneapolis	
	PRESENTERS: <i>Maria Froud-Martinez</i> , K-12 DL Coordinator, Minneapolis <i>Valeria Praga-Rodriguez</i> , Director of MLE Program Design & Development, Denver <i>Sarah Grimm-Masson</i> , Director of MLE Performance, Accountability, & Systems Optimization, Denver	
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	COUNCIL UPDATE: TEACHING ACADEMIC WRITING TO ELS COURSE OVERVIEW	SCANDINAVIAN 3,4
	Guilford County Schools will share how they incorporated the National Writing Project (NWP)/Council hybrid courses on <i>Teaching Academic Writing to ELs</i> in professional learning	

and the resulting impact—and guide participants through a learning activity demonstration using the course materials.

FACILITATOR:

David Lai, Manager of ELL Policy and Research, CGCS

PRESENTERS:

Vanina Hackett, EL Lead, Guilford County

Soledad Lardies-Dunst, EL Coordinator, Guilford County

Carlos Bartesaghi, EL Coordinator, Guilford County

EVENING ON YOUR OWN

Saturday, May 11, 2024

8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST	NORWAY 3
9:00 am – 9:30 am	COUNCIL PROJECTS UPDATE Ongoing projects will be shared for discussion and feedback. Attendees will be invited to share pressing issues to inform upcoming projects.	NORWAY 3
9:30 am – 10:00 am	BIRE DEBRIEF AND 2025 PLANNING Goals, issues, and venues for future meetings will be discussed.	NORWAY 3
10:00 am	MEETING ADJOURNMENT	