ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Task Force on English Language Learners and Bilingual Education

2020-2021

Task Force Goal

To assist urban public school systems nationally in improving the quality of instruction for English Language Learners and immigrant children.

Task Force Chairs

Siad Ali, Minneapolis School Board Richard Carranza, New York City Chancellor

ELL PROVISIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS



Council of the Great City Schools®

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1100N, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 393-2427 (202) 393-2400 (fax) www.cgcs.org

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Council of the Great City School Member Districts

From: Michael Casserly, Executive Director

CC: Chief Academic Officers Legislative Directors

English Learner Program Directors

Date: October 5, 2020

Subject: U.S. Department of Education Guidance Regarding Provisionally Identified English

Learners and the October EL Count for Title III Allocations

U.S. Department of Education: *State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must include all ELs in an LEA, including those identified using temporary entrance procedures, in the calculation for Title III allocations.*¹

Background

In mid-August, the Council submitted a formal query to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), prompted by data indicating that a significant number of states were not allowing provisionally identified English learners to be included in the formal EL count for funding purposes. The specific question posed was:

"Can LEAs include the students provisionally identified as English learners in the official October EL count submission for purposes of Title III funding?"

U.S. Department of Education Response

On September 21, 2020, the Council received a formal response from Fariba Hamedani, Education Program Specialist in the *Office of School Support & Accountability, Formula Grants*, in the Office of Elementary & Secondary Education. In the following excerpt, we have italicized the restated question and bolded the response for further clarity—

"You stated that due to COVID-19, many of your member districts "have continued to use provisional screening protocols to identify students who will need supports and services for English language development." You asked whether LEAs should include the students provisionally identified as English learners in the official October EL count submission for purposes of Title III funding. We assume that you are asking whether, in computing Federal fiscal year (FY) 2021 (school year 2021-2022) Title III, Part A (Title III) allocations for eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) under section 3114(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), an SEA would include ELs identified through the provisional

¹ U.S. Department of Education. (2020, May 18). *Fact sheet: Providing services to English learners during the COVID-19 outbreak*. https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/covid-19-el-factsheet.pdf

approach in its computation. As described in more detail below, the answer to this question is yes."

The Department's response further expands as follows (bold added)—

"With respect to within-State Title III allocations of funds that the ESEA requires an SEA to allocate to LEAs, ESEA section 3114(a) stipulates that the SEA, after reserving funds under ESEA section 3114(d) for the immigrant children and youth subgrant to LEA(s), must allocate the remaining funds to LEAs based on each LEA's share of ELs relative to the total number of ELs in the State. In making this computation, the SEA must include all ELs in an LEA, including those identified using temporary entrance procedures."

The U.S. Department of Education has indicated that a public formal communication on this issue is forthcoming, but as of today, it has not been issued. OESE staff have indicated that their email response to our query is to be considered an official response from the U.S. Department of Education.

We have attached the Department's response in its entirety should it prove helpful in your communications with your SEA to ensure that the English learners you have provisionally identified during the COVID-19-related school closures, are included in your official October count for Title III funding.

Attachment

ATTACHMENT—COPY OF EMAIL RESPONSE FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

From: OESE.titleiii-a <OESE.titleiii-a@ed.gov> Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 4:04 PM

To: Gabriela Uro

Cc: OESE.titleiii-a <OESE.titleiii-a@ed.gov>; Hamedani, Fariba; McElwain, Lorena; Anand, Supreet; Michael Casserly; Spitz,

Deborah

Subject: RE: Questions regarding provisionally identified ELs during COVID-19 health emergency

Dear Gabriela,

On August 19, 2020, you emailed several questions to Lorena McElwain, OELA's Assistant Deputy Secretary. Please find here the response to one of the question that is specific to Title III, Part A policy, provided to you by the Department's Title III, Part A program office.

CGCS Question:

"LEAs have provided the language instructional support to students provisionally identified as English learners since the March closings of schools and through summer programs, mostly through virtual instruction. Can LEAs include the students provisionally identified as English learners in the official October EL count submission for purposes of Title III funding?"

Response

You stated that due to COVID-19, many of your member districts "have continued to use provisional screening protocols to identify students who will need supports and services for English language development." You asked whether LEAs should include the students provisionally identified as English learners in the official October EL count submission for purposes of Title III funding. We assume that you are asking whether, in computing Federal fiscal year (FY) 2021 (school year 2021-2022) Title III, Part A (Title III) allocations for eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) under section 3114(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), an SEA would include ELs identified through the provisional approach in its computation. As described in more detail below, the answer to this question is yes. (If you are asking a different question, would you please clarify in a reply to this email?)

In light of the COVID-19 national emergency and as discussed in the fact sheet titled *Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak* (seehttps://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/covid-19-el-factsheet.pdf), the Department provided flexibility to States to identify an EL using temporary entrance procedures (page 3 of the fact sheet). Any such student is an EL and an LEA must provide appropriate language instruction services to such students.

With respect to within-State Title III allocations of funds that the ESEA requires an SEA to allocate to LEAs, ESEA section 3114(a) stipulates that the SEA, after reserving funds under ESEA section 3114(d) for the immigrant children and youth subgrant to LEA(s), must allocate the remaining funds to LEAs based on each LEA's share of ELs relative to the total number of ELs in the State. In making this computation, the SEA must include all ELs in an LEA, including those identified using temporary entrance procedures.

If you have further Title III, Part A policy questions, please contact us at OESE.Titleiii-a@ed.gov.

Kind regards, Fariba Hamedani

Fariba Hamedani

Education Program Specialist
Office of School Support & Accountability, Formula Grants
Office of Elementary & Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

ELL Provisional Screening Questions to the U.S. Department of Education

Context of SY 2020-21. As school districts across the nation have begun the school year 2020-21, the vast majority of schools are unable to fully return to in-person classes and formal, comprehensive screening for EL identification is still suspended. Most districts, therefore, have continued to use provisional screening protocols to identify students who will need supports and services for English language development. The need for supplemental Title III funds to enhance instructional programs for English learners will be even greater in SY 2020-21.

QUESTIONS for SY 2020-21

- 1) The May 18 Fact Sheet specified that the provisional entrance procedures were in effect for the SY 2019-20 due to the pandemic. Given that pandemic-related restrictions remain in place as the SY 2020-21 begins, many LEAs are unable to administer student screening assessments in person. Will the Department of Education extend the flexibility for the SY 2020-21 for the identification of English learners?
- 2) LEAs have provided the language instructional support to students provisionally identified as English learners since the March closings of schools and through summer programs, mostly through virtual instruction. Can LEAs include the students provisionally identified as English learners in the official October EL count submission for purposes of Title III funding?

Background

LEAs are struggling to comply with student screening requirements under the current COVID-19 circumstances, and continued flexibility to identify and serve students provisionally identified as English learners is essential for meeting the needs of these students in SY 2020-21.

Flexibility in identification of English Learners (SY 2019-20). The fact sheet on "Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak" issued by the U.S. Department of Education on May 18, 2020 provided important flexibility to state educational agencies and local educational agencies for the identification of English learners during the time when schools are closed due to the COVID-19 national emergency. Specifically, in response to question #3, the fact sheet states:

"...if the LEA is operating via remote learning, the LEA must screen new students to determine EL status to the extent possible.

However, the Department recognizes that, during the COVID-19 national emergency, many facilities are physically closed, including those normally used for registration and screening. An LEA that is continuing to enroll new students during the COVID-19 national emergency should attempt to identify ELs remotely to the greatest extent possible. For example, the LEA's online registration process could include a home language survey for parents, and the LEA may be able to conduct a version of its screening assessment online. "

Our member districts availed themselves of this flexibility to expeditiously enroll new students and provide the necessary instructional supports for language acquisition for the remainder of

SY 2019-20 with the expectation that schools would resume normal operations in SY 2020-21. Responses included in the May 18, 2020 fact sheet also presumed this to be the case, stipulating

- "When the school physically reopens, the LEA would complete the full identification procedures to promptly ensure proper identification and placement of new ELs," and
- "...any temporary change in its entrance procedures for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 national emergency."

We look forward to learning how the May 18, 2020 Fact Sheet will be updated to address the SY 2020-21 circumstances and, specifically, answer the two questions we have posed today.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLATFORM (PLP)



Inaugural Courses:

Complex Thinking and Communication Across Content Areas



A program of courses for teachers serving high-needs students to ensure they meet college- and career-readiness standards by engaging in complex forms of communication and thinking



Introduction

Today's college- and career-readiness standards require considerably higher levels of academic language mastery and cognitive functioning across the curriculum than ever before. Teachers across all content areas are expected to deepen their students' understanding of content and develop their mastery of academic language, while also addressing any "unfinished" learning students may bring. For educators in Great City School districts, this challenge is a daily reality. These districts enroll a large share of the nation's English learners and economically disadvantaged students, many of whom are performing below grade level. Few, if any, efforts have focused on helping teachers who serve high-needs students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet these new instructional standards.

To address this gap between instructional expectations and capacity, there is an urgent need for professional development that provides teachers new ways of supporting academic language and literacy development across content areas, particularly for high-needs students. The Council of the Great City Schools, with the generous support of the Leona Helmsley Charitable Trust, has therefore initiated its learning platform and developed a set of courses focused on expanding the capacity of teachers to support high-needs students in their acquisition and use of the complex thinking and communication skills by college- and career-readiness standards in both English language arts and mathematics.

Unique Course Design Features

Format and delivery. Large urban districts have substantial professional development needs, and increasingly rely on professional learning communities to provide that development. To support these professional learning communities, and address the limited time and strained budgets many districts face, this professional development resource is designed to provide:

- Affordable, on-demand, and ongoing access to nationally-known experts, research, and evidence-based pedagogy, along with high-leverage practices
- **Flexibility** to be delivered either in face-to-face sessions or in professional learning communities with live facilitation
- **Adjustable pacing** to accommodate individual district professional development schedules and opportunities throughout the year
- Explicit connections between course content and a district's own tools and resources to maximize relevance for educators

Adult learning cycle. The Council's advisory teams, consisting of nationally-regarded researchers and urban district practitioners, identified three important design features for an effective professional learning experience. To help teachers transform their instructional practices to better support high-needs students in their attainment of rigorous standards—

- Content must show how teachers implement high-leverage instructional moves for high-needs students.
- Courses should provide access to expert research, evidence-based and effective pedagogy, and promising practices relevant to member districts.
- Course and platform design should allow for maximum integration or coordination with other ongoing district professional learning opportunities.

The web-based learning platform, the brief videos, and the overall design of activities allow for courses to be delivered in many ways and at any time during the year. Flexibility is embedded into the system to provide ample time for participants to experience each phase of the learning cycle: *learn* new approaches and strategies, *plan* to execute these approaches and strategies, *apply* them in classrooms, and *reflect* upon the implementation experience.



Content and Structure of Inaugural Courses

The courses focus on academic language development in order to accelerate the learning needed to master grade-level content tied to college- and career-readiness standards. The program includes the following:

- Videos and demonstations of the "how." Each of the courses includes video clips of teachers and educators planning and implementing high-leverage strategies, along with video presentations of experts and practitioners describing how to prepare for and execute the instructional moves.
- **Tools and resources.** A range of tools and resources are also provided to aid in the planning and execution processes.
- Contextualized integration. Practical and locallyrelevant application of new knowledge is built into the course design and the learning cycle. The design assumes a central role for district-based facilitators.

All participants are first required to complete the *Foundations* course in order to build a common understanding of the theory of action and the key research behind the professional development courses, as well as to build a common vocabulary. Once educators complete the *Foundations* course, they can select the course sequence in either the ELA pathway or the Mathematics pathway.

- **ELA pathway:** Focuses on building academic language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, using complex grade-level materials aligned with the collegeand career-readiness standards.
- Mathematics pathway: Focuses on building academic language skills to address the language demands of mathematics, equipping teachers with the skills necessary to engage students in grade-level reasoning and to build conceptual understanding in math.

Inaugural Program: Ten Courses on Complex Communication and Thinking





For more information, contact:

The Council of the Great City Schools at: PLP@cgcs.org.

Vision of the Council's Professional Learning Platform

We envision a hybrid professional development offering that acknowledges and prioritizes educators as learners, while honoring ELLs, students performing below grade level, and economically disadvantaged students as the ultimate center and focus of the work. Professional development should help build learning communities across districts by accommodating and connecting diverse audiences across roles and content areas (e.g., teachers, instructional coaches, principals, and district administrators), and by providing safe learning environments that support reflection on practice outside of any formal evaluative protocols.



How to sign up for the Program

Contracting for the Council's inaugural courses is best if arranged through a single point of contact, such as office for English language learners or another office selected by the district.

Contact us at PLP@cgcs.org to request a free consultation to determine the best package for you.



About the Council

The Council of the Great City Schools is the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. Composed of 68 large city school districts, its mission is to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research, technical assistance, and media relations. The organization also provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.

Chair of the Board

Lawrence Feldman, Board Member Miami-Dade Public Schools

Chair-Elect

Eric Gordon, CEO Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Secretary-Treasurer

Michael O'Neill, Board Member Boston Public Schools

Immediate Past-Chair

Felton Williams, Board Member Long Beach Unified School District

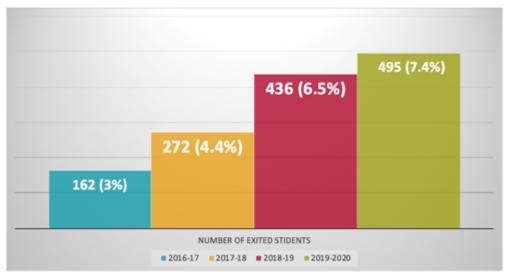
Executive Director

Michael Casserly Council of the Great City Schools



Council of the Great City Schools 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Suite 1100N Washington, D.C. 20004

NUMBER OF EXITED STUDENTS



2016-17 - First year of assessment after the WIDA ACCESS restandardization.

2017-18 - First year of 3Ls PD for EL staff with partial implementation.

2018-19 - First year of full implementation of 3Ls.

2019-20 - 2nd year of full implementation of 3Ls.



ELL MATERIALS PROCUREMENT PROJECT



Directory of Instructional Materials for English Language Learners— Math for Grades 6-8

May 2019





Introduction

The joint procurement initiative developed by the Council of the Great City Schools and executed under the auspices the Los Angeles Unified School District, was a multi-year process to harness the purchasing power of the nation's largest urban school district to equip teachers of English Learners with high-quality, standards-based instructional materials for mathematics that meet the language needs of English Learners. This bench of contracts offers several choices for math instructional materials for Grades 6 through 8.

On February 19, 2019, the LAUSD Board of Education approved the contracts to provide instructional materials for middle school mathematics that meet the needs of English-language learners. For reference, you can find the approval document HERE. [url address] For the Request for Proposal document—and related addenda—through which the proposals were solicited, see RFP & ADDENDA.

The contracts listed offer instructional materials and corresponding *related professional development* to support language-acceleration as well as college- and career-readiness through mathematics content that incorporates the following *key considerations* identified by the Council of the Great City Schools: rigorous tasks, productive struggle, multiple modes and representations, academic language and conversations, and strategic scaffolding.

School districts *in the continental United States* can use these contracts to purchase materials, as allowed by applicable laws and policies. Section 28 in each of the LAUSD approved contracts on this bench provides express provision for the use of the contract by school districts that are a part of the Council of the Great City Schools and by other school districts within the continental United States.

Publisher Contact Information

Curriculum Associates, LLC

LAUSD Vendor No.: 1000000184 **Contract No.:** 4400006090

Products Included

- Ready Math Textbook
- Ready Math Textbook Teacher Guide
- IReady Instruction

Contacts

Claudia Salinas

V.P. of English Learning (TX) 214.519.3677 salinas@cainc.com

John Sipe

Regional V.P. (CA) 760.213.6163 jsipe@cainc.com

Andres Gorbea

Educational Consultant (Los Angeles, CA) 909.648.6019 agorbea@cainc.com

Website:

www2.curriculumassociates.com/ products/subjects.aspx?topic=CM0

Imagine Learning, Inc.

LAUSD Vendor No.: 1000003998 **Contract No.:** 4400006091

Products Included

- Imagine Math
- Math Performance
 Task Blackline Master (upper EL)
- Math Performance Task Blackline Master (MS)
- Student Journals Printed (consumable)

Contact

Chiara Tellini

Area Partnership Mgr., L.A. 626.437.7350 (cell) chiara.tellini@imaginelearning.com

Website:

www.imaginelearning.com/programs/math

Open-Up Resources

LAUSD Vendor No.: xx Contract No.: xx

Products Included

• XX

Contact

Publisher Highlights



Curriculum Associates, LLC

VENDOR No.: 1000000184 CONTRACT No.: 4400006090

Ready Mathematics, Grades 6-8 ©2020

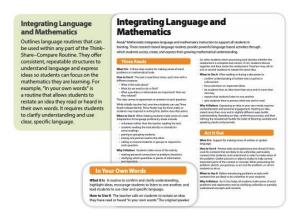
Teacher support provided at every lesson in the Teacher Resource Book help facilitate classroom discussion.

Think-Share-Compare Routine
Engages students in solving problems and discussing their work, first with partners, then with the whole class. Teachers select from the Step-by-Step questions in the lessons to guide discussion during the Compare portion of the routine.

Think-Share-Compare Routine

1. Mothe States of the Problem Recutine
Step of the Step o

Language routines, found in the Teacher Resource Book, enhance the overall Think-Share-Compare discourse routine and suggest an overall approach to teaching problems.



Students communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success, and they are given opportunities to listen, speak, read, and write at the appropriate level of language proficiency.

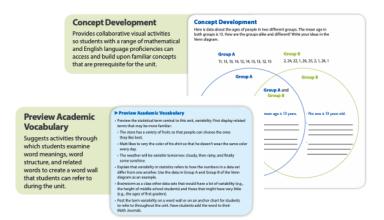
English Language
Development

Offers suggestions for scaffolding language use during the lesson so students at different levels of English proficiency can access the mathematics and express their own ideas.

**Common of English proficiency can access the mathematics and express their own ideas.

**Literate Sall State of the Sall State of Sall State o

The Student Instruction Book gives students the opportunity to review mathematical and academic vocabulary and to access and build on familiar concepts.



Publisher Highlights



Imagine Learning, Inc.

VENDOR No.: 1000003998 CONTRACT No.: 4400006091

Imagine Math Overview

At Imagine Learning we believe that all students are I anguage learners. We believe that mathematical understanding and language development are interdependent and symbiotic. And most importantly, we know that when students are provided with meaningful learning experiences, they can master mathematics and acquire language at the same time.

Imagine Math lessons are designed to be instructional learning experiences that engage students in meaningful exploration of understanding mathematics. In an Imagine Math lesson, students will:

- · Engage in thinking and reasoning about mathematics
- Investigate mathematical concepts and practices
- Explore mathematical ideas through a problem solving approach
- Solve problems using multiple representations of mathematical relationships

Students receive instructional support throughout the lesson in three main ways:

- Feedback that is designed to address misconceptions and redirect thinking in response to student work
- 2. Math Help that is designed to provide direct instruction on the math concepts behind a particular problem, available upon student request
- 3. Live Help that allows students to **work directly with a bilingual, certified math teacher** on their math
 problem, also available upon student request



At a Glance: Imagine Math Activities

Imagine Math lessons are designed to be instructional learning experiences that engage students in meaningful exploration of understanding mathematics. In an Imagine Math lesson, students will:



| Activity | Overview |
|-------------------------|--|
| Pre-Quiz | Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the content within the lesson. |
| Warm Up | Students practice procedures and recall facts that may be helpful in the lesson. |
| Guided Learning | Students engage in meaningful instructional tasks designed to facilitate understanding and reinforce college and career readiness standards. To support their learning, students have access to personalized feedback, digital manipulatives, reference tools, and live certified math teachers. |
| Problem Solving Process | Students work through and begin to internalize a problem solving process that can be applied to complex problems. |
| Practice | Students review, extend, and synthesize the ideas from the Guided Learning, continuing to receive corrective feedback. |
| Post-Quiz | Students demonstrate their understanding of the content within the lesson. |

Contracting Procedure

School districts wishing to acquire the services offered by the listed contracts should take the following steps:

- 1. Select from listed products, as specified in the Product Code table, and offered by the contracted publishers;
- 2. Go to www.cgcs.org/domain/266 to review the pricing as well as terms and conditions for each of the respective contract(s) to ensure that pricing, terms, and conditions are acceptable to the school district;
- 3. Email the selected publisher(s) outlining the specific proposed purchase and requesting the publisher's written quote, noting that (a) each quote request should identify the product(s) sought, requested delivery date and any special terms; and (b) for items as listed in the contract where no special terms are requested, the price quoted by the vendor should be no higher than the price shown in that publisher's contract;
- 4. Using the agreed-upon quote, issue a purchase order or other purchase request to the selected publisher in accordance with your school district policy.

| Product Catalog | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| (NIGP Code) | |
| 71500 | Publications and audiovisual materials (prepared materials |
| 71586 | Textbooks: 6th thru 8th grade (includes student and teacher |
| 78570 | Instructional aids: courses, lesson plans (prepared), progra |
| 78575 | Instructional software licenses, non-taxable |
| 78576 | Paper items: composition books, test/examination materials |

LAUSD Contact Information

Sybil Ward

Contract Administration Manager Procurement Services Division

213-241-3594 • sybil.ward@lausd.net

Alicia Martinez

Assistant Contract Administration Manager Procurement Services Division

213-241-3527 • alicia.martinez@lausd.net

Sample Approval

ATTACHMENT B

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS $\underline{\text{NOT UNDER}}$ $\underline{\text{DELEGATED AUTHORITY}}$

A. APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS

NEW CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$250,000

CONTRACTOR

Curriculum Associates, LLC;

K12 OER

Collaborative,

d/b/a Open Up

Imagine Learning,

IDENTIFI-CATION NO.

4400006000

4400006039 (RFP 2000001304)

Item D

DESCRIPTION

of \$5,000,000

Formally competed bench contracts to provide math instructional materials tailored to the needs of English Learners in Grades 6-8. The materials were developed in collaboration with the Council of the Great City Schools, five other schools districts and experts in the field of pedagogical theory relating to English Learners and mathematics. The authority to increase or decrease the individual amounts of these

contracts will be limited to the aggregate value Contract Term: 03/01/19 through 02/28/24 includes two (2) one-year renewal options

Aggregate Five-Year Value for Three (3) Contracts: \$5,000,000

Requesters: Derrick Chau P-12 Instruction, Division of Instruction

Lydia Acosta Stephen, Executive Director Multilingual and Multicultural Education Division of Instruction

Bd. of Ed Rpt. No. 248-18/19

Page 1 of 7

Board of Education

\$5,800,000

AMOUNT

\$5,000,000

SOURCE

FUNDS

Various

Requesting

School

(100%)