

Cross REL Webinar Series: Serving English Language Learners in a Rural Setting

Webinar Session 1

Date: March 2, 2011, 3 p.m. EST

The Big Picture: Why is it important to address rural ELL populations?

Overview of Practice Guide: Effective Literacy and English Language Instruction for English Learners in the Elementary Grades and discussion of its application in rural contexts

00:00 Welcome and Introductions

Host REL Appalachia will provide introductions and an overview of REL Appalachia's work

05:00 Who are English Language Learners?

Dr. Sarah Moore will discuss a general definition of ELL students, how they are defined by *ESEA*, and states guidance regarding identification.

13:00 The National Perspective

Dr. Jerry Johnson will discuss the national picture of ELL populations in rural areas, and in contrast to non-rural areas. Dr. Johnson will give a big picture look at why we should care about this emerging issue.

25:00 Question and Answer session for both Dr. Johnson and Dr. Moore

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions through an online chat which the moderator will then verbally relay to the presenters. REL Ap is investigating options to make the Q&A more live and interactive, including moderated live questions and opening up use of the chat box.

30:00 Practice Guide Overview: Effective Literacy and English Language Instruction for English Learners in the Elementary Grades

Dr. Russell Gersten will provide an overview of the practice guide recommendations and the basis for them.

40:00 Practice Guide Recommendation 1, Screen for reading problems and monitor progress

Dr. Gersten will then discuss Recommendation 1, Screen for reading problems and monitor progress.

50:00 Practice Guide Recommendation 1, Screen for reading problems and monitor progress

Practitioner success story

57:00 The Rural Context

Dr. Johnson will talk about the challenges that rural areas face in providing services targeted to small student subgroups. Dr. Moore will then elaborate on this issue by discussing the challenges associated with services for ELL students in the rural context.

65:00 pose question to participants: Additional challenges they have faced? Strategies they have used?--2

67:00 How Can Educators Overcome these Challenges?

CAL will discuss some strategies to address the challenges of providing services to ELLs in rural areas.

71:00 Report out on participants' responses: Strategies they have employed to address similar challenges (these will inform the development of Webinar sessions 2 and 3)--2

73:00 *Final Question and Answer*

75:00 *Wrap-up*

Webinar Session 2: From Research to the Classroom: Recommendations of the Practice Guide applied to a rural context: Discussion and examples from the field Date: March 9, 2011, 3 p.m. EST

00:00 Welcome and Introductions

Host REL Appalachia will provide introductions and an overview of REL work.

00:05 The Rural Context

A recap of the challenges that rural areas face in providing services targeted to ELLs.

00:08 Implementing Recommendation 2, Provide intensive small-group reading interventions

Based on the “Roadblocks and Solutions” section of the practice guide, Dr. Russell Gersten will discuss implementation, roadblocks, and solutions applied in rural contexts.

15:00 Successful practitioner story

25:00 Question and Answer

30:00 Implementing Recommendation 5, Schedule regular peer assisted learning opportunities

Based on the “Roadblocks and Solutions” section of the practice guide, discuss implementation, roadblocks, and solutions applied in rural contexts.

40:00 Successful practitioner story.

50:00 Question and Answer

59:00 Wrap-up

Webinar Session 3: Building Capacity to Serve ELL Students in a Rural Context

Date: March 16, 2011, 3 p.m. EST

00:00 Welcome and Introductions

Host REL Appalachia will provide introductions and an overview of REL work.

00:05 The Rural Context

A recap of the challenges that rural areas face in providing services targeted to ELLs.

00:07 Implementing Recommendations 3&4, Provide extensive and varied vocabulary instruction, and Develop academic English.

Based on the “Roadblocks and Solutions” section of the practice guide, Dr. Robin Scarcella, co-author of the Practice Guide, will discuss implementation, roadblocks, and solutions applied in rural contexts. How LEA representatives, principals and teachers implement or use professional development to improve instruction of ELLs in rural areas.

20:00 Challenges for rural districts and successful practitioner stories

30:00 Question and Answer

35:00 Introduction to discussion of building capacity: Rural challenges

38:00 Professional development for teachers in rural contexts

45:00 Practitioner stories

Successful models and key principles

Laurie Nesrala, director of the WRITE Institute, San Diego County Office of Education

50:00 Building resources through membership in a consortium:

Title III legislation on consortia, different state approaches to consortia?

CAL will discuss how districts can come together to serve ELL students more effectively, and how consortia of districts can qualify for Title III funds.

55:00 Participating in a consortium – district perspectives Consortium members from 2 different consortia speak about their experience

65:00 Final Question and Answer

70:00 Wrap-up