

REL: Southeast

Event Date: May 13, 2010

Event Title: Connecting Research to Practice: Response to Intervention and English Language Learners

Description: REL Southeast will host this bridge event in collaboration with the Florida Department of Education. The event will focus on research on Response to Intervention (RtI) and English Language Learners. Dr. Sylvia Linan-Thompson will present the findings from the IES Practice Guide, *Effective Literacy and English Language Instruction for English Learners in the Elementary Grades*.

The goal of the event is to engage state department program leaders in discussions about RtI research on effective Tier 1 instruction for English Language Learners. State and district staff will have an opportunity to engage in discussions with researchers as they consider revisions to the state plan. The event will conclude with a panel discussion by FDOE and district representatives on implications of the information shared. The event is a direct response to a state's need for information on how to strengthen its RtI plan to ensure a system that is responsive for all diverse learners.

Agenda: The draft agenda is attached.

Audience: The target audience for this event includes members of two Florida Department of Education teams. The *State Management Group* provides leadership and facilitates policy-level changes for implementation of the state's RtI Plan. The second team, the *State Transformation Team*, is responsible for analyzing progress, making recommendations for improvement, and supporting the District and School Based Leadership Teams as they build the capacity of districts and schools. These two groups are comprised of program leaders from the FDOE and other education agencies in Florida. The state department will also invite a small number of district and school leaders to provide additional perspectives in processing the information. Approximately 35 participants are expected.

Location: Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida.

Speakers: Dr. Sylvia Linan-Thompson, Associate Professor, Department of Special Education at the University of Texas at Austin, will present as one of the authors of the IES Practice Guide, *Effective Literacy and English Language Instruction for English Learners in the Elementary Grades*. She is the associate director of the National Center for Research on the Educational Achievement and Teaching of English Language Learners

(CREATE). She is also a principal investigator (PI) or co-PI for numerous IES-funded studies, including *Adaptations of Peer-Assisted Learning for English Language Learners: Application to Middle-School Social Studies Classes*, and *Optimizing Educational Outcomes for Spanish Speakers who are English Language Learners*.

Report Citation: IES Practice Guide, *Effective Literacy and English Language Instruction for English Learners in the Elementary Grades*
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practiceguides/20074011.pdf>

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**Connecting Research to Practice:
Response to Intervention and English Language Learners
May 13, 2010
Tallahassee, Florida**

Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Setting the Stage**
Bambi Lockman, Bureau Chief, Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education
- Overview of goals for the day, RtI Framework in Florida, state/district responsibilities, and Florida ELL demographics and achievement.
- 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. **What is culturally responsive Response to Intervention (RtI)?**
Dr. Janette Klingner, University of Colorado at Boulder, National Center for Culturally Responsive Education Systems (NCCRESt), will provide an overview of RtI as applied to ELLs.
- 11:15 – 12:15 p.m. **State Discussion**
To set the stage for the research presentation to follow, participants will discuss the following questions within small groups. REL-SE staff will facilitate.
- When considering culturally responsive RtI models, how well does Florida’s RtI framework address these issues, and what can be improved?
 - What are challenges for the state in considering culturally responsive RtI models?
 - What are those challenges’ implications for policy, practice, and professional development within the Florida RtI framework?
- 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. **What does research say about effective instructional strategies for ELLs?**
Presenter: Sylvia Linan-Thompson, University of Texas at Austin
Presentation of IES Practice Guide, *Effective Literacy and English Language Instruction for English Learners in the Elementary Grades*
- 5 recommendations, levels of evidence, implications
- 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. **Reflection and Q&A about the Research**
REL-SE will facilitate discussion of questions such as:
- How do these recommended strategies relate to current instructional practices in Florida schools?

- How do these recommended strategies relate to/support culturally responsive pedagogy?
- What questions arise concerning policy, practice, and professional development?

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

What are the implications of today's presentations for Florida's RtI Plan?

State panel members include George Batsche, Florida RtI Project Co-Director, Amelia Van Name Larson (Supervisor of Curriculum and Instructional Services, Pasco County School District), and a representative principal (to be determined by FDOE).

What are our next and future steps and considerations?

Summary discussion and reflection from FDOE
George Batsche, Project Co-Director

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks/Evaluation