

**When an English learner struggles academically: Telling the difference between second language acquisition and a possible learning disability**

Presented at the Arizona Department of Education Practitioners of English Language Learning Conference

Friday, September 9, 2016  
Phoenix, AZ

**Agenda**

Note: This session will be repeated twice from 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM and 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

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11:15 AM – 11:20 AM

**Welcome**

- Elizabeth Burr, REL West at WestEd
- Julie Esparza Brown, Portland State University

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11:20 AM – 11:45 AM

**Knowing Your Students**

Brown will:

- Describe the important things to know about students: their language development/profile; cultural background; life experiences; educational experiences; and personal characteristics
- Explain the process of second language acquisition and typical vs. atypical language development
- Demonstrate how to make appropriate comparisons (e.g. with “true peers”) to gauge student progress
- Share specific strategies to offer appropriate supports and screening tools prior to referral to special education services, to avoid over- and under-representation

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11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**Examples from the Classroom**

- Brown will share video segments to illustrate application of the select practices

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12:00 PM – 12:15 PM

**Audience Questions and Answers, Surveys, and Closing**

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