

English proficiency and the pandemic:
Where are English learner students' language and literacy
skills now?

Welcome, event orientation, and speaker introductions

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Opening remarks
- How Texas English learner students fared during the COVID-19 pandemic
- English learners' test scores: Before, during, and after COVID-19
- Panel discussion
- Question-and-answer session

Webinar goals

- Share recent research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on English language proficiency test scores of English learner students.
- Discuss implications for English learner students, their families, teachers, and schools.
- Hear from practitioners about their understanding of where students are and how to help them continue to improve.

Meet the presenters



Melissa Castillo

*Senior Advisor,
Office of English Language
Acquisition, U.S. Department
of Education*



Lisa Hsin

*Senior Researcher,
REL Southwest*



David Osman

*Director, Research and
Evaluation, Gibson
Consulting Group*



Narek Sahakyan

Researcher, WIDA

Meet the presenters



Glenn Poole

*Graduate Research Assistant,
WIDA*



Irma Guerra

*Coordinator, Instructional
Services, Education Service
Center, Region 20, Texas*

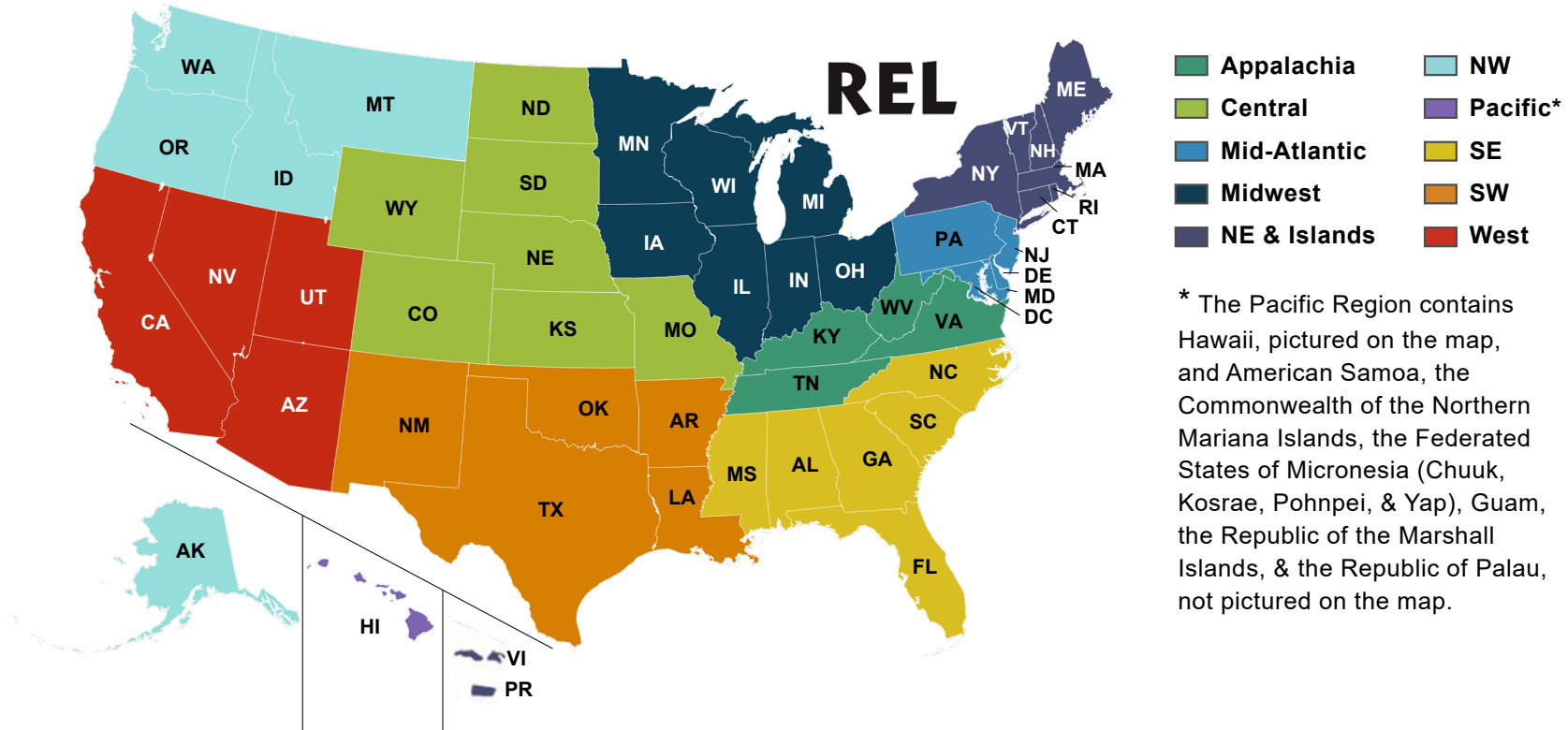


Emily Key

*Principal, Kirtland
Elementary School,
Albuquerque Public Schools*

Regional Educational Laboratories

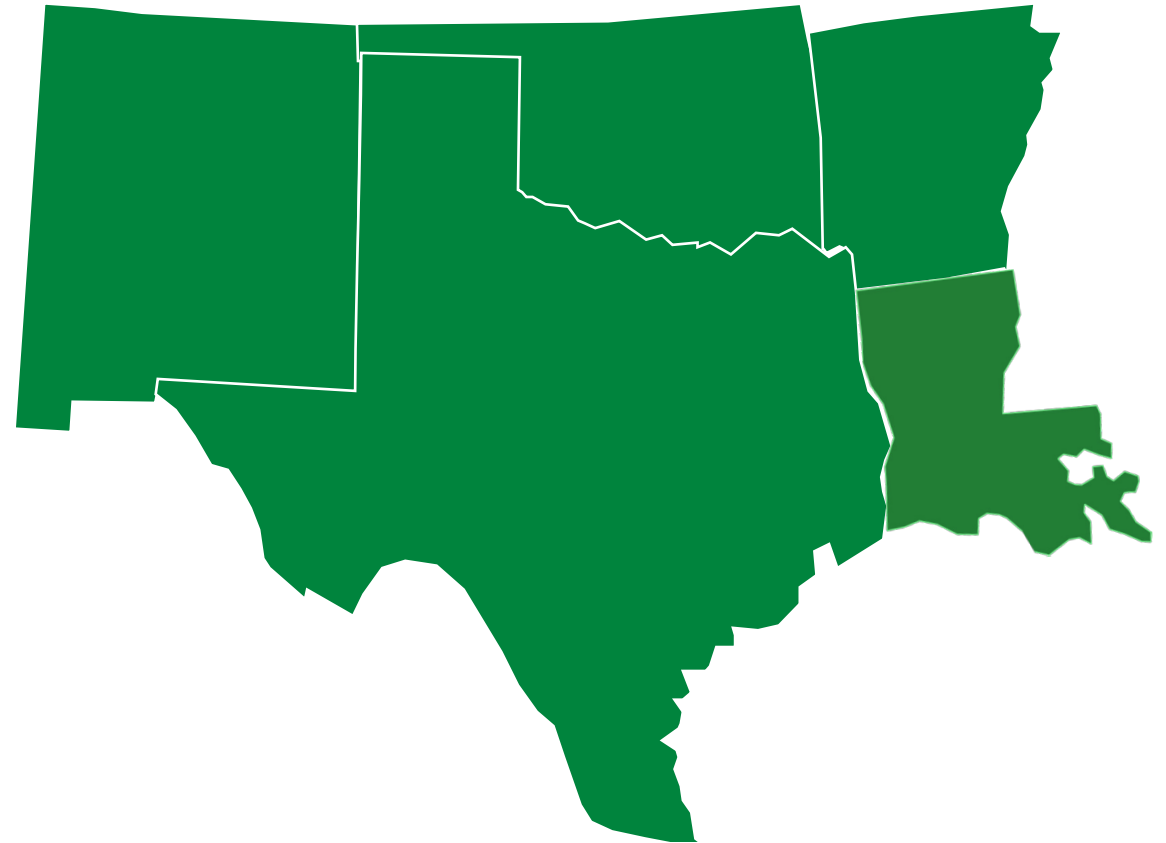
Regional Educational Laboratories



How does REL Southwest do this work?

REL Southwest works with state education agencies, districts, and other partners to develop and apply research evidence to **meaningfully improve student outcomes.**

REL Southwest supports **five** collaborative research partnerships to address the regional needs, priorities, and interests of five states: **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.**



Opening remarks



Lead the World

November 14th , 2023



What the U.S. Department of Education has Learned from the American Public Over the last Two Years

- Students, educators, and families want to know and feel like they belong
- Families want a research and evidence-based, rigorous, well-rounded, minds-on and hands-on education for their children, including pathways to postsecondary learning, career options, and multilingualism
- America needs to eliminate the shortage of highly qualified educators and student support staff
- Educators and schools can accelerate learning by providing relevant and joyful learning, and meeting students and educators' wellness needs

U.S. Department of Education



ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- » Accelerate learning for every student
- » Deliver a comprehensive and rigorous education for every student

U.S. Department of Education



BOLDLY IMPROVE LEARNING CONDITIONS

- » Eliminate the educator shortage for every school
- » Invest in every student's mental health and well-being

U.S. Department of Education



CREATE PATHWAYS FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- » Ensure every student has a pathway to college and a career
- » Provide every student with a pathway to multilingualism

Key Levers to Provide Every Student with a Pathway to Multilingualism



EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Develop and implement processes that enhance oversight for the civil rights protections of English learners as well as related funding obligations for English learner services and promote evidence-based practices to address the barriers that English learners can encounter in education



DIVERSIFIED BILINGUAL/MULTILINGUAL EDUCATOR WORKFORCE

Provide technical assistance and funding opportunities and disseminate information about evidence-based state and local programs that are building educator workforce capacity, including Grow-Your-Own, teacher residencies, and apprenticeship programs; and support colleges and universities in prioritizing English as a Second Language and bilingual educator preparation programs for multilingual educators



QUALITY BILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR ALL

Increase access to high-quality language programs and highlight states and districts that are implementing evidence-based dual language programs and seals of biliteracy

Why It Matters



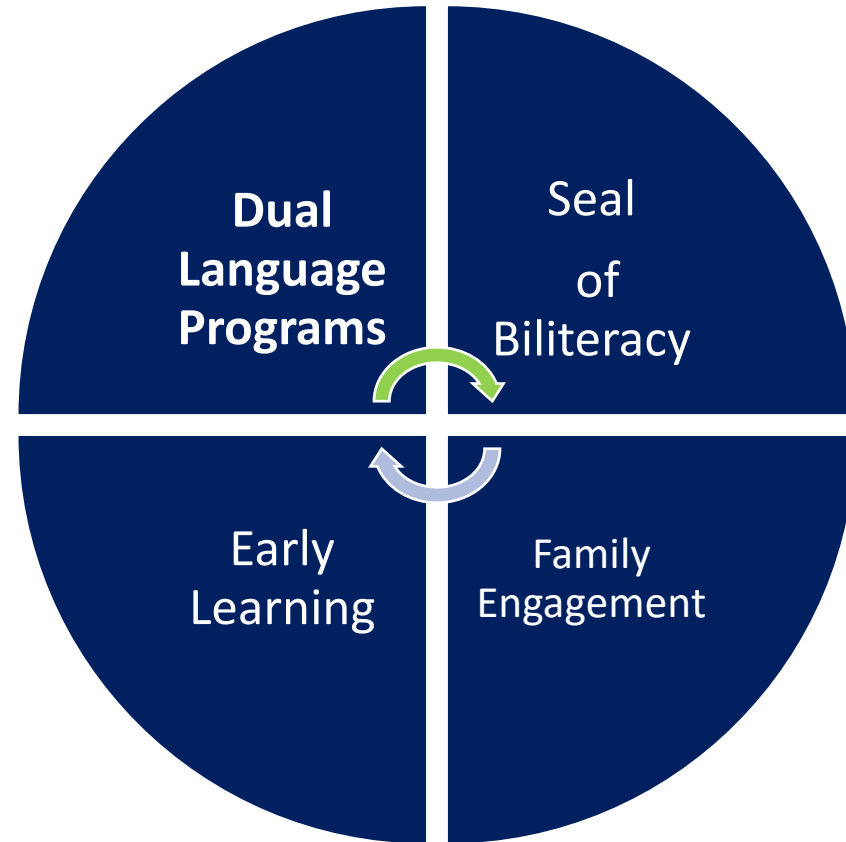
- English learners are one of the fastest-growing populations
- The number of people who speak a language other than English at home has tripled in recent decades
- According to *Ethnologue*, of the 115 indigenous languages spoken in the U.S. today, 2 are healthy, 34 are in danger, and 79 will go extinct within a generation without serious intervention. Essentially, 99% of Native American languages spoken today are in danger."
- As of 2019, there were 5.1 million English Learners enrolled in our nations' public elementary and secondary schools
- Adults who are multilingual have access to better jobs and higher pay
- Students who come to school with a language other than or in addition to English come with many assets; language, culture and funds of knowledge

Why It Matters Cont'd



- Multilingualism, as well as bilingualism, has significant academic, cognitive, economic, and sociocultural benefits
- Multilingual students have:
 - a broader and deeper vocabulary and they're better communicators and problem-solvers.
 - better memory, attention, and multitasking skills
- According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, only 20 percent of Americans can converse in two or more languages, compared with 56 percent of Europeans. Experts estimate about half of the human race is bilingual, at least.
- Growing industries and sectors like healthcare, trade, education and technical services, employers are more likely to expect workers to have a 2nd language
- In the trade sector, employers are 59 percent more likely to expect workers to have a 2nd language. In education, that number is 57 percent. In professional and technical services that number is 55 percent. And 54 percent, among construction employers.

OELA Priorities





Scan the
QR Code to
explore NCELA
resources!

Visit the National Clearinghouse for
English Language Acquisition
(NCELA) for news and resources on
the education of multilingual learners:

- Department of Education Announcements
- Resource Library with 25,000+ resources
- Toolkits, Fact Sheets & Infographics
- Nexus newsletter
- Podcasts & Webinars
- Funding Opportunities



Or visit our website at: <https://ncela.ed.gov/>

OELA Resources on English Learners and Multilingualism

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Office of English Language Acquisition

Beneficios del Multilingüismo

En la sociedad global actual, ser multilingüe, multicultural y multicultural tiene múltiples beneficios. Saber más de un idioma desde el nacimiento, adquirir un nuevo idioma en la escuela o aprender idiomas más adelante en la vida puede brindar ventajas tangibles en muchos ámbitos. Desde retrasar los signos cognitivos del envejecimiento hasta obtener créditos universitarios o recibir mejores ofertas de trabajo, el multilingüismo puede beneficiar a los estudiantes de inglés y a los anglohablantes de diversas formas.

BENEFICIOS COGNITIVOS

- Favorece el aprendizaje de idiomas
- Control de la atención

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Benefits of Multilingualism

There are multiple benefits to being multilingual, multilateral, and multicultural in today's global society. Knowing more than one language from birth, acquiring a new language through school, or learning languages later in life, can provide tangible advantages in many areas. From delaying cognitive signs of aging, to earning college credits, and getting a better job offer, multilingualism is an asset that can benefit English learners as well as native English speakers in a variety of ways.

COGNITIVE

- Executive function
 - Attention control
 - Task switching/mental flexibility
- May delay the onset of age-related cognitive decline and the onset of dementia such as Alzheimer's disease
- Improved academic readiness

EDUCATIONAL

- Improved higher academic achievement of students in dual language programs or immersion programs in English-only programs
- Improved learning outcomes in native language
- Increased academic readiness associated with increased high school graduation rates among students of immigrant families
- Leads to increased levels of creativity
- Provides higher levels of academic fluency and learning
- Organized enhanced multilingualism skills to assist in learning to acquire the meaning of languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic

SOCIOCULTURAL

- Understanding of other world cultures
- Increased empathy development
- Cultural connections to heritage cultures
- Promotes global awareness, cultural competencies, respect, self-awareness, and stronger cross-group relationships

ECONOMIC

- Greater job opportunities in multiple public and private sectors
- Greater business opportunities
- Integration with occupational skills and learning outcomes
- Language skills are a high priority in employment with the broad workforce

Critical Languages
Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, Tagalog, Haitian Creole, etc.

U.S. Department of Education

English Learner Family Toolkit

U.S. Department of Education

Newcomer Toolkit



OELA
Office of English Language Acquisition

WEBINAR

English Learner Family Toolkit

Tuesday, December 5, 2023
4:00 PM ET

PANELISTS:



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Assistant Deputy Secretary & Director,
OELA



Melissa Castillo
Senior Advisor, OELA



Beatriz Ceja
Deputy Assistant Secretary, OELA

To celebrate the publication of the updated English Learner (EL) Family Toolkit and the release of the EL Family Toolkit App, the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) is hosting a series of webinars to introduce and showcase these resources. In this introductory event the presenters will review all six chapters of the toolkit and the available languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic); discuss the implications and potential uses of the information and resources in each chapter; recommend ways and best practices for sharing these resources with EL families; and demonstrate the features of the EL Family Toolkit mobile app.

REGISTER NOW:

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_zhK9YpA_Q6Gq_nN8PUGrA





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Thank you for all you do!

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