EL Connections Webinar

November 2026

KANSAS
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

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Connections Before Content

In the chat…

1. Sound of crunching leaves

OR

2. Sound of rain

Agenda

Connections Before Content

Brag Board

Quick Hitters

Strategy Spotlight

PD Opportunities

Resources & Reminders

Discussion: ILPs *(Breakout Rooms)*

Brag Board

"This is the first year our teachers have been really walked through what the KELPA scores mean, and how it pertains to each of their ESOL students. I've really been blown away by how much they're taking it onboard and thinking about how to change the way they're teaching to really impact each of their students best. From Kindergarten through high school, they're excited to understand their students better, and relieved to understand a little bit more about what they should be expecting. It's created a **release of frustration** for both the teachers and the students."

Quick Hitters

WIDA Materials Ordering

If you have students who will be taking the WIDA Alternate ACCESS English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessment:

November 30th – December 18th

- Test Materials Ordering Available in WIDA AMS
- Load Pre-ID/Student Import Files into WIDA AMS

For more information, please reference the WIDA Alternate ACCESS Checklist.

WIDA Alternate ACCESS for New Test Administrators

This webinar provides an overview of WIDA Alternate ACCESS including scheduling, basics of administration, purpose, design, scoring, and review of training resources.

November 17, 2026
1:00-2:00 PM CT
Link

Can't make it? The recordings for Assessment Webinars are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal on the Webinars page within a week of the presentation.

Preschool ESOL Standards Clarification

In the early childhood setting around 2011, guidance for dual language learners and English learners was embedded within the broader early learning standards and program guidance rather than published as standalone document.

The current **Kansas Early Learning Standards (KELS)** have undergone multiple revisions, with the most recent revision approved in 2024.

These standards should be used when writing ILPs for early learners.

Quick Link:
Kansas Early Learning Standards: Communication and Literacy Skill Development (p. 38)

- *Speaking and listening, language, literature, foundational reading skills, and writing*

For more information about the KELs, please contact Natalie McClane or visit KSDE's Early Childhood website.

Strategy Spotlight

Strategy Running List

An ongoing list of strategies highlighted during our monthly webinars to refer to as you need!

Disclaimer: *The strategies and resources shared each month during this webinar are for professional learning purposes only and are not mandated, required, or officially endorsed.*

Making Every Teacher a Multilingual Educator

The power of co-leadership and job-embedded inquiry to build collective efficacy for every teacher to teach for ML excellence

Creating strong outcomes for multilingual learners requires a schoolwide approach. Rather than relying solely on siloed language programs or standalone trainings, schools benefit from developing collective educator capacity to support content, language, and literacy learning in every classroom.

Singer (2025) describes the asset-based Six Essentials Framework (below) as a tool for guiding educator reflection, action, and inquiry in ways that strengthen learning opportunities, language development, and academic success for multilingual learners.

Ward Singer, T. (2025). *Making Every Teacher a Multilingual Educator*. Language Magazine.

https://languagemagazine.com/2025/12/02/making-every-teacher-a-multilingual-educator/.

Six Essentials Framework

- **Value** students' assets, including languages, cultures, and lived experiences.
- **Expect** excellence of every learner, with clarity about grade-level expectations and an unwavering belief in the capacity of MLs to realize these goals.
- **Engage** students actively in every lesson (e.g., via peer conversations, meaning-making, reading, writing, and problem-solving) in support of content and language learning.
- **Observe** and listen as students engage and analyze student work to gather formative data on assets and learning priorities.
- **Support** as a process of choosing, losing, adapting instruction to connect students' assets, and help every learner thrive with the goals.
- **Reflect** about the impact of our actions on student learning, with agency and efficacy to adapt our next instructional moves to ensure all students thrive.

PD Opportunities

Webinars Available Through WIDA

Dec 9, 2026 - Exploring Actionable Approaches for Centering Newcomers
Jan 20, 2027 - Instructional Strategies for Supporting Multilingual Learners With Disabilities in Language and Communication
Mar 10, 2027 - Connect to Learning: Engaging Multilingual Learners, Their Families and Communities
Apr 14, 2027 - Expanding Youth Voice for Multilingual Learners

To register and for more information, please visit the WIDA website.

Resources & Reminders

Mark Your Calendars!

EL Connections Webinar

- Important Updates
- Set agenda
- Collaboration welcomed!
- 2nd Thursday of the month
- 2:00 pm CST
- Registration will be available @ www.ksdetasn.org.

Office Hours

- As needed
- No set agenda
- Additional opportunity to ask questions and collaborate
- No registration required
- Not mandatory or recorded
- Focused on supporting those new in their roles

SY 26-27 EL Connections Webinar Schedule

Month	Date	Time
December 2026	*Winter Break*	
January 2027	Thursday, January 7th	2:00 p.m.
February 2027	Thursday, February 11th	2:00 p.m.
March 2027	*Spring Break*	
April 2027	Thursday, April 8th	2:00 p.m.
May 2027	Thursday, May 13th	2:00 p.m.
June 2027	*Summer Break*	

Register Here

Important Links

KSDE Website

English Learners
- ESOL Proficiency Standards
- Forms & Templates

Title III

Kansas Assessment Program (KAP)
- 2026-2027 Kansas Assessment Program Overview
- 2026-2027 KELPA Screener Manual

KS WIDA State Page
- WIDA Alternate Screener

Additional Resources

USDE: English Language Acquisition State Grants; Title III, Part A

English Learners Dear Colleague Letter (2015) – *Rescinded*

Title III Non-Regulatory Guidance (September 2016; Revised January 2019)

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA)

Newcomer, English learner, and Family Toolkits

Ensuring English Learner Students Can Participate Meaningfully and Equally in Educational Programs (DOJ/OCR – Undated) – *Rescinded*

Plyler v. Doe [457 W.S. 202(1982)] (Reference)

https://www.idra.org/resource-center/immigrant-students-rights-to-attend-public-schools-2/

Brag Board

Let's start the year off by celebrating our professional wins...big or small!



Breakout Rooms

ILP Feedback

Purpose: Gather feedback to inform development of an ILP companion guide.

Group Size: 7-10 participants

Discussion Time: 20 mins

Return to meeting to share out: 8-10 mins

- What is working well?
- What barriers or inconsistencies exist?
- What guidance, examples, templates, or training would be most helpful?
- If the KSDE could address only one issue in the companion guide, what should it be?



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