



Examining Support for English Learners at the District Level

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Presenters

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Agenda

- Background about REL Northwest
- Analyzing district programs for ELs
- Pilots in 2015 and 2016
- Hands-on session with the rubric
- Discuss rubric and its use

About REL Northwest



REL Northwest

- Headquartered at Education Northwest in Portland
- One of 10 regional educational laboratories across the nation funded by the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences
- Serves AK, ID, MT, WA, OR
- Mission of the RELs is to improve the use of research and data in policy-making and district, school, and classroom practice

REL Northwest Activities

- Address dropout prevention, improved outcomes for English language learners, college readiness and persistence, discipline disparity, school improvement, and other areas of need
- Applied research
- Technical assistance to schools, districts, state offices, and other agencies

REL Northwest Activities

- Applied research studies in OR:
 - Grade 8 and 9 indicators of HS dropping out in four districts
 - Suspension and expulsion in six districts
 - Suspension and expulsion and achievement on state assessments for ELs in six districts
- Technical assistance
 - Data analysis, literature reviews, program reviews, workshops, and other services
 - *A Practitioner's Guide To Implementing Early Warning Systems*
 - The rubric is an example of our tool development

Analyzing District Level Programs for ELs



Origin of the Rubric

- Desire to help districts examine the coherence of their instructional program for ELs beyond program models and instructional strategies
- Based in research on
 - how districts organize and manage their instructional programs
 - resources needed for teaching ELs
- We used constructs from the research to create a rubric for districts to self-check instructional programs for ELs

Why a Rubric?

Instead of

- Literature review
- Research summary
- “Best Practices” / other forms of “Thou Shalt”
- Other product

We Believe...

- You know your district, programs, and students better than we do.
- You can make your own decisions about your strengths, weaknesses, and priorities for improvement.
- A rubric can help structure your thinking about your program.

Voila, the rubric!

Rubric Background

- Rubric originally created for the Oregon Leadership Network Research Alliance:
<http://educationnorthwest.org/oln>
- Currently 60 items in 8 topic areas
- Printed and online versions

Topic Areas

1. Structure, delivery, and support of instruction for ELs
2. Managing human resources related to teaching ELs
3. Monitoring and reporting implementation and outcomes
4. Individual and institutional learning for improving learning for ELs

Topic Areas

5. Scaling up effective programs and practices for ELs
6. Focusing the professional community on the needs of ELs
7. Learning from outside sources about improving instruction for ELs
8. Engaging parents of ELs

What Comes with the Rubric?

- Instructions
- Printed version includes spreadsheet for recording scores and generating simple reports
- Online version includes results and an interpretive score summary provided by REL Northwest
- We're adding new capability that districts asked for!

The Rubric Helps...

- Structure discussion within the district about the EL program
- Inform discussion of priorities for action
- Identify areas where the district is doing well and areas where the district needs to improve
- Benchmark progress over time
- Inform development of finer grained assessments of strengths and weaknesses

The Rubric Helps...

- Identify differences in how district staff perceive the EL program
- Inform the community about the district EL program
- Structure discussion of EL programs with the school board, other districts, and ODE

Districts continue to identify uses

The Rubric is not...

- A public report card
- A tool for personnel evaluation
- A tool for comparing or ranking districts
- A tool for checking coherence of *school-level* programs
- A standalone guide to improvement

Is the Rubric Available?

Currently, the U.S. Department of Education has approved dissemination only to members of the Oregon Leadership Network and Road Map districts in Washington state.

Piloting The Rubric



Districts in the 2015 Pilot

Beaverton	North Clackamas
Bethel	Parkrose
Centennial	Portland
David Douglas	Reynolds
Forest Grove	Salem-Keizer
Gresham-Barlow	West Linn-Wilsonville
Hillsboro	

The 2016 Pilot

- We're inviting other OLN districts - Astoria, Corbett, Corvallis, Fern Ridge, Eugene, Hood River, Oregon City, Sherwood, Springfield, and Tigard-Tualatin.
- Also Seattle-area districts with substantial populations of ELs: Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Seattle, and Tukwila.

What Districts do for the Pilot

- Complete the rubric either once as a team or separately by individual staff members
- Complete a brief evaluation questionnaire
- Engage in follow-up discussion with REL Northwest

What Districts Get

- Item, section, and total results
 - For your district
 - Compared to all districts
- Interpretive summary (areas of strength and weakness)

Hands-On Session with the Rubric



Discussion

- Examine the “survey format” and the “rubric format” versions
- The “rubric format” makes the structure of the rubric clear
- Which version would you prefer to complete? Why?

Discussion

- How would you use the rubric in your district?
- Does the rubric have utility for structuring conversation about EL programs within and across districts and between districts and ODE?
- Can you suggest uses in addition to those we suggested earlier?
- If you use the rubric, what follow-up would you like from REL Northwest?

Wrap Up



Plans for Further Development of the Rubric

- Allow users to complete only sections they choose
- Report results in real-time
- Link to resources that inform using the results to plan improvements
- Align rubric with state reporting requirements in Oregon and Washington
- School-level rubric?

For information about the rubric...

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Get Information About Education Northwest / REL Northwest From Our Coordinator For Oregon



Vicki Nishioka

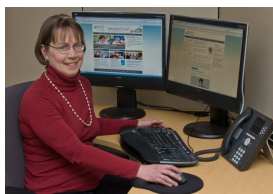
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Ask A REL

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Jennifer Klump, our reference librarian, can provide you with the best available research to answer questions facing your school or district.



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