

Virtual English Learner (EL) Workgroup Meeting
Maryland State Department of Education
August 31, 2021
4:00-5:30 PM

Meeting Notes

Workgroup Members in Attendance: Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury (Chair), Ms. Libia Gil, Dr. Drew Fagan, Mr. Sam Jackson (on behalf of Senator Kagan), Mr. Diego Juarez, Senator Cheryl Kagan, Dr. Eric Louers-Phillips, Dr. Kia McDaniel, Ms. Paula Moore, Dr. Anjali Pandey, Mr. Matthew Peters, Ms. Isela Vidals, Ms. Judy Walker, Delegate Alonzo Washington, Dr. Conor Williams

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Ms. Julia Chavez, Mr. Amir François, Mr. Steven Hicks, Ms. Susan Spinnato, Mr. Jonathan Turner, Ms. Laurel Williams, Ms. Ilhye Yoon

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lorena Mancilla from WIDA

The meeting started at 4:01 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Choudhury, the workgroup chair, delivered welcome remarks. He also shared the guiding questions and the structure of future meetings.

Guiding questions:

- How does Maryland identify, engage, and instruct multilingual learners in early childhood settings?

Ms. Spinnato reviewed the agenda and introduced Dr. Lorena Mancilla, Director of WIDA Early Years from WIDA.

The Dual Language Learner Landscape: What We Know and What We Need (See the attached PowerPoint)

Dr. Mancilla shared what WIDA Early Years and types of services they provide. Then, she shared the following information.

- National landscape and demographics of multilingual children dual language learners (DLLs)
- Identification of young children as DLLs
- Instructional practices for DLLs
- State highlight: Illinois

Existing Maryland Policies and Practices: State Level (See the attached PowerPoint)

- Ms. Chaves shared State-level policies and practices around working with DLLs. She also addressed the current partnership between WIDA Early Years and MSDE.
- Ms. Williams shared school systems that are offering English language development (ELD) services to PreK ELs in Maryland. She also addressed how school systems are identifying PreK ELs and types of placement assessment used. Lastly, she shared the PreK ELD service models and highlighted one school system's PreK EL services.

Data Dive: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (See the enclosed PowerPoint)

Ms. Walker shared Maryland's early childhood comprehensive assessment system, Ready for Kindergarten (R4K) as well as R4K data over time.

Discussion and Recommendations

Workgroup members identified the following opportunities for growth in Maryland around DLLs:

- Identifying PreK ELs
- Establishing standardized identification and screening tools for PreK ELs
- Expanding early childhood teacher knowledge and sound pedagogy

Closing

Superintendent Choudhury gave a closing remark. He also shared that promoting biliteracy and biculturalism is important and that a few states will be presenting on dual language education and assessments in the future meetings.

The meeting ended at 5:32 p.m.