

Virtual English Learner (EL) Workgroup Meeting
Maryland State Department of Education
September 14, 2021
2:00-3:30 PM

Meeting Notes

Workgroup Members in Attendance: Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury (Chair), Ms. Geraldine Duval (on behalf of Delegate Washington), Dr. Drew Fagan, Ms. Anne Marie Foerster Luu, Ms. Lucy Hernandez, Mr. Sam Jackson (on behalf of Senator Kagan), Mr. Diego Juarez, Dr. Eric Louers-Phillips, Dr. Kia McDaniel, Ms. Paula Moore, Mr. Devin Neil (on behalf of Senator Kagan), Dr. Anjali Pandey, Mr. Matthew Peters, Ms. Isela Vidals, Ms. Judy Walker, Dr. Conor Williams

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Ms. Julia Chavez, Mr. Robert Eccles, Mr. Amir François, Ms. Karla Henriquez, Ms. Kelly Meadows, Ms. Susan Spinnato, Mr. Jonathan Turner, Ms. Laurel Williams, Ms. Ilhye Yoon

Guest Speakers:

- California Department of Education (CDE)
 - Ms. Sarah Neville-Morgan, Deputy Superintendent
 - Ms. Elena Fajardo, Administrator
 - Ms. Alesha Moreno-Ramirez, Director
 - Ms. Marcela Rodriguez, Education Programs Consultant
- Prince George's County Public Schools
 - Dr. Jennifer Love, Supervisor of Language Access and Engagement

The meeting started at 2:01 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Choudhury, the workgroup chair, delivered welcome remarks, reviewed the agenda, and shared the guiding question.

- What practices support equitable access by English learners (ELs) and their families to English language development (ELD)-trained teachers and multilingual staff?

Ms. Spinnato introduced the CDE team and shared a workgroup recommendation link. Members were asked to share their comments in the link provided.

California's Approach Toward Educating Multilingual Learners (See the attached PowerPoint)

The California team shared the following information:

- General overview of student population including English learners and dual language learners
- History of educating ELs, DLLs, and multilingual learners
- The California English Learner Roadmap
- CDE's vision and mission
- Four interrelated principles
- Standards and frameworks
- The California Education for Global Economy Initiative
- The global CA 2030 report
- English language proficiency assessment
- Equity focus and assets-based approach to supporting and educating ELs

The workgroup members had opportunities to ask questions about the dual language grant that California received and how it was used.

Spotlight on National Best Practices and Research (See the attached PowerPoint)

Ms. Meadows, Assistant State Superintendent of Educator Certification and Program Approval, shared national practices and research as well as Maryland policies and practices regarding professional development and credentials:

- National practices and research
 - EL training or ongoing professional development requirement for general classroom teachers
 - English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) credentials
 - Bilingual education credentials
- Maryland policies and practices
 - ESOL certification
 - Bilingual teacher certification
 - International teachers and staff
 - Teacher preparation programs and proposed Maryland certification

Local School System Spotlight: Prince George's County

Dr. Love presented how Prince George's County Public Schools serve their international students and families. She also addressed successes and challenges. During her presentation, she shared:

- Demographic information.
- Language access and equity.
- Office of interpretation and translation.
- Professional language access community.
- Professional development for school counselors and paraprofessionals.

Data Dive: Teacher Certification (See the enclosed PowerPoint)

Mr. François shared the number of ESOL teachers by State and local school systems and statewide percentage of EL students and ESOL teachers. He also presented information on the gender breakdown of ESOL teachers and the racial composition of ELs as well as ESOL teachers.

Discussion and Recommendations

Workgroup members talked about opportunities for Maryland to grow and offered recommendations regarding policies and practices. They had a chance to add their recommendations to the shared Google document.

Closing

Superintendent Choudhury gave a closing remark.

The meeting ended at 3:35 p.m.