

PETALLs

A Partnership between the University of Massachusetts Lowell and the Lawrence Public Schools. Funded by the U.S. DOE (T265Z120171)

Vol. 3
Feb//March 2013

Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners

IN THIS ISSUE

PARATELL-Professional Development for Paraprofessionals has begun!

Lawrence Public Schools are Ready for RETELL

Special Points of Interest

Access

PETALLs Wikispace

Contacts:

Michaela Colombo, University of Massachusetts Lowell
978-934-4610
Michaela_Colombo@uml.edu

Heidi Perez, Lawrence Public Schools
978-975-2743
Heidi.Perez@lawrence.k12.ma.us

Professional Development for Paraprofessionals Teaching ELLs (ParaTELL) Has Begun

On February 28, 134 paraprofessionals attended the first of four 2.5 hour workshops designed to enhance their ability to provide instructional support to English language learners (ELLs). This professional development, complete with



training manuals for facilitators and paraprofessionals, was designed collaboratively by UMass and Lawrence Public School faculty as part of the PETALLs project. The ParaTELL professional development is being provided by six Lawrence Public School teachers who collaborated on the training manual drafts. Hollie Fumero and Jodie George from the Wetherbee, and Rosemarie Gaffny and Noelle Matara from the Parthum are facilitating professional development for paraprofessionals in grades PK-4. Nicole Pellerin from the Wetherbee is providing professional development to paraprofessionals in the middle grades, and Dan Rasanen from the Performing and Fine Arts High School will facilitate workshops for high school paraprofessionals. During this professional development the paraprofessionals will learn valuable strategies to use in the classroom. They will receive 15 PDPs for their participation in all four workshops and submission of workshop assignments.

Future workshops will take place on Thursdays from 3:30-6:00 March 28, April 25, and May 23.

If you or your paraprofessional has any questions, please contact Clara Gonzalez (978.975.5905 ext. 25739) or Heidi Perez (978.975.5905 ext. 25743).

Special Points of Interest

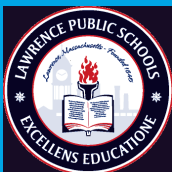
- More than 130 LPS paraprofessionals in grades PK-12 begin training to enhance their ability to work with ELLs.
- Lawrence will need to provide approximately 700-900 teachers with the state –mandated RETELL course. Priority cohorts will begin with those teachers who did not complete at least 3 of the 4 category trainings and those who will need re-licensure in 2014.
- 9 LPS teachers and coordinators and UMass faculty completed intensive DESE RETELL training this past February. They will begin RETELL training in Lawrence in the fall of 2013.
- In addition to the new state requirements for teachers, administrators will also need a 15 hour endorsement.
- Join PETALLs Wiki

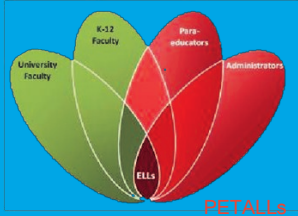
For further information about how RETELL will impact your teaching staff, contact Heidi Perez at heidi.perez@lawrence.k12.ma.us.

Lawrence is Ready for RETELL Fall 2013 !

What is RETELL? It is the new state regulation approved by the Massachusetts Board of Education in July of 2012. RETELL requires that ALL content area teachers have an endorsement in Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) for re-licensure beginning in 2014. They must earn the SEI endorsement by completing a state-approved course, which will be offered in the Lawrence Public Schools at no cost to teachers.

Lists of core content teachers will be generated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) using the ELAR system. Teacher lists will then reviewed by the LPS Central Office to prioritize teachers groupings that will allow those with imminent re-licensure to be participate in RETELL first. A group of state-approved trainers from the Lawrence Public Schools and UMass will facilitate this mandated SEI professional development. (See p. 2.)





Access

Scores are coming in May!

The PETALLs Wikispace

A Resource for All LPS Educators

Coming in April's Special Edition Issue:

A Newsletter Designed Specifically for Tips on Observing in an SEI Classroom!

Information

For more information or questions on RETELL, please contact:

Heidi Perez, LPS ELL Coordinator:
Heidi.Perez@lawrence.k12.ma.us

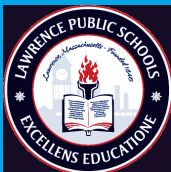
For newsletter input contact::

Laurie Hartwick, ESOL-HHS
Laurie.Hartwick@lawrence.k12.ma.us

Laurie Hartwick contributed the content for this newsletter.

For Wiki information, contact:

Mary.Desimone@lawrence.k12.ma.us



PETALLs Participants Complete RETELL Training of Trainers for Lawrence Public Schools



Seated from Right to Left: Heidi Perez, Jennifer Berger, Michaela Colombo (UMass). Standing: Kristen Ando, Laurie Hartwick, Mary DeSimone, Allison Balter, Lisa Alonzo, and Erin DeNicola

Updates on ACCESS

As you know, ACCESS is the new state assessment for ELLs. ACCESS scores will inform you, the district, core content teachers, and ESL teachers of the proficiency levels of English within content areas. This data will help with FY 2013-2104 programming to equitably meet the needs of ELLs and prepare them for academic achievement.

We have or are just about to complete ACCESS testing for the school year 2012-2013. ACCESS replaces the MEPA/MELA-O test and is aligned with the new ESL WIDA Standards which is aligned with Common Core.

The score reports that will be sent to districts in May will reflect data in several ways:

- First, there is a parent/student report that is reader friendly in both English and the home language.
- Second, there is a report for teaching staff that indicates the scores in instructional and social language, the language of math and science, and the language of ELA. These scores will help schools develop programming to support ELLs in order to further enhance achievement. We will know the subjects and core content in which our ELLs struggle the most with the academic language and vocabulary necessary to achieve in these content classes.
- Finally, a last report is available as a "district" report with across-the-board data.

The PETALLs Wikispace Please join!

In this feature, we would like to introduce to you the PETALLs Wikispace.

Mary DeSimone, ESL teacher at the Parthum Middle School, has designed the Wikispace for all Lawrence educators of all levels.

The Wikispace includes valuable information about:

- ESL
- SEI Instruction
- New WIDA standards
- Lesson plans for ELLs
- WIDA Performance Indicators for content area lessons
- What to Look for in the SEI Classroom

Currently, Lawrence Public School teachers are submitting core content lesson plans aligned with Curriculum Frameworks, Common Core and WIDA. The lessons feature WIDA performance indicators. As principals complete observations for Smart Goals, PETALLs invites you to encourage your teachers to submit quality lesson plans for posting on the Wiki site. Teachers do not need to include performance indicators. A group of Lawrence teachers are developing model performance indicators for lessons submitted. The PETALLs Wiki will have a substantial library of core content lesson plans with MPis.

Your input and participation is valued by our teachers.

To join Petalls Wikispace

Contact: Mary DeSimone

Mary.Desimone@lawrence.k12.ma.us