

# PETALLs

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

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## Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners

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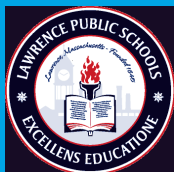
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### PETALLs—A Collaboration of the Lawrence Public Schools and UMass Lowell

The Preparing Excellent Teachers of All Language Learners (PETALLs) is part of a National Professional Development project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education (T265Z120171).

The PETALLs project has been developed collaboratively between the Lawrence Public Schools and the Graduate School of Education at UMass Lowell. PETALLs seeks to improve educational opportunities for English language learners using a systemic approach. Its goals are 1) to provide professional development and foster communities of learning for administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals within the Lawrence Public Schools and 2) to provide professional development to faculty in educator preparation programs at the Graduate School of Education.

PETALLs is supporting the applications and preparation of eight RETELL instructors for the Lawrence Public Schools. RETELL is a course that will be required for all core content area teachers and is described on p. 2. PETALLs is also offering 12-credit graduate certificate program in ESL focusing primarily on teachers in the STEM areas, and is developing PD for paraprofessionals who provide services to ELLs.

All PD has been developed collaboratively between the Lawrence Public Schools and UMass Lowell, and thus focuses on the specific needs of the Lawrence Public Schools.

### DESE Requirements

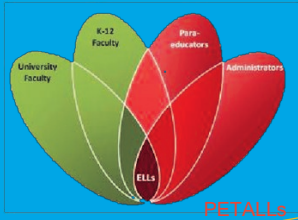
As we move towards the end of 2012, we have begun to see some changes brought about by the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) report on the needs of ELLs in Massachusetts schools. The DOJ's findings have resulted in Massachusetts mandating professional development that was once only recommended.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has adopted the WIDA standards, which replace the English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes (ELPBO). See p. 2 for information about WIDA.

### Special Points of Interest

- DESE regulations for providing instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs ) are now mandated!
- WIDA replaces ELPBO. WIDA uses an assessment called ACCESS.
- RETELL (the course) will prepare all core content teachers to teach ELLs.
- PETALLs offers PD for Lawrence teachers and paraprofessionals.

If you have questions about WIDA, you can speak with your ESL Specialist or email Heidi Perez at [heidi.perez@lawrence.k12.ma.us](mailto:heidi.perez@lawrence.k12.ma.us)



## Lawrence Teachers and WIDA

### The Value

### ACCESS

### New Assessment

### RETELL

### Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners

### PETALLS Professional Development

### A Tailored Fit

### Information

For more information or questions on RETELL, please contact:  
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## What is WIDA?

World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) provides standards for ELL language use within the content areas.

WIDA is an effective tool that guides teachers to set objectives, plan lessons, and assess instruction for all content areas.

WIDA is aligned with the Common Core.

With WIDA comes a new assessment, called **ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English)**.

This means that you will no longer administer MEPA/MELA-Os to ELLs. Instead all ELLs will be evaluated every January using ACCESS. The ACCESS scores will be reported to districts each May in order to inform ESL programming and content-area instruction. Your ESL teachers are also undergoing training so that they will be ready to administer ACCESS.

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### RETELL (Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners )

- Is the outcome of an agreement between Massachusetts and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to initiate changes in programming and instruction that will guarantee equitable opportunities to learn.
- RETELL requires **ALL core content teachers** (who do not have ESL licensure) to complete a RETELL course, which has been designed for Massachusetts teachers, before their recertification date between 2014 and 2016.
- This course is different from coursework to prepare for ESL licensure. **It is a state mandate for content area teachers who do NOT have ESL licensure.**
- Content area teachers DO NOT NEED to become certified in ESL (although that would be great). Content area teachers may want to contact DESE through its website to ascertain exactly what they will need for re-licensure in 2014.

## Lawrence Teachers and WIDA– The Value

Lisa Alonzo, an ESL teacher at the International High School, has attended significant WIDA training. When asked what she thought the impact of WIDA implementation might be, she responded, “I feel WIDA is so valuable, because it provides **content area teachers** the necessary tools that allow ELLs to access **content area curriculum**. It allows those same students to demonstrate their **content area knowledge** and build academic language regardless of where they are on the continuum of language acquisition.”

Lawrence ESL teachers are currently undergoing intensive training in the WIDA standards during the months of October and November. Your ESL teachers will be speaking with you soon about WIDA so that they can begin to think about a plan to roll out WIDA standards and how to use them in your individual schools.

If you have questions about WIDA, you can speak with your ESL specialist or email: Heidi Perez (heidi.perez@lawrence.k12.ma.us).

### PETALLS Professional Development—Designed for Lawrence, Offered in Lawrence

PETALLS provides:

- Twelve credit graduate certificate in ESL
- Paraprofessional training
- RETELL with practice related to Lawrence
- Informational Newsletter for administrators