

Fall 2023 Professional Learning Calendar

Live Virtual Professional Learning Opportunities

The Pennsylvania Department of Education offers the following live virtual professional learning opportunities free of charge to all personnel directly employed by public schools in the Commonwealth. Registration is limited and is filled on a first come, first served basis. If a session is full, you will be placed on a waitlist and notified if a seat opens. Please register only after you have verified that you are able to attend. If you must cancel a registration, please contact eld@witf.org as soon as possible so that your seat may be given to the next person on the waitlist.

You must register with your educational institution's email address.

Any questions about professional learning opportunities may be directed to eld@witf.org.

SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PDE Office Hours

PDE's English Language Development Office Hours is an open forum for educators across the Commonwealth to engage in Q&A with PDE staff, content experts, and ELD colleagues across the state. All educators in PA LEAs are encouraged to attend, including ESL Specialists, PreK-12 content teachers, building and district level administrators, paraprofessionals, specialists, and Intermediate Unit personnel. Office Hours are not eligible for Act 48 continuing education credits.

September 14, 2023 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | [REGISTER NOW](#)

September 26, 2023 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | [REGISTER NOW](#)

October 18, 2023 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | [REGISTER NOW](#)

November 28, 2023 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | [REGISTER NOW](#)

December 19, 2023 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | [REGISTER NOW](#)

ELD Coordinators Training

September 28, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This training is designed to provide an overview of policies and procedures for ELD Coordinators. English Learners are a growing population in Pennsylvania and a far greater number of districts enroll ELs now than in the past. Many districts are tasked with meeting the needs of this unique population for the first time. The success of ELs in meeting growth and attainment targets for English proficiency is a state and federal priority, codified in both the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Pennsylvania Consolidated State Plan for ESSA. Content for this webinar will include:

- Overview of the state accountability system, approved by the USED under ESSA for Title I, which includes an indicator dedicated specifically to ELs' progress toward and ultimate on-time attainment of English proficiency
- Introduction to the PA Future Ready PA Index that provides an annual calculation of percent of ELs in each school who are achieving their individual targets for language growth and attainment
- Overview of requirements of the Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements for design and implementation as well as quality and success
- Overview of other systems and procedures that ELD Coordinators are required to know and manage
- An orientation to the District EL Administrator/Coordinator Handbook

Target Audience: This workshop is designed for ELD administrators/coordinators. School principals are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 3 hours

Instructor: Bob Measel, Title III Director and Bilingual Education Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education

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Culturally Responsive Teaching in Contested Times

October 30, 2023 | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

We are in an era of great debate about the role of culture in school learning. Recognizing culture as a cognitive construct means that culturally responsive teaching is not an intervention or a specialized program but, rather, is directly rooted in learning theory. In this workshop, we will think about how culture is inherently tied to prior knowledge, building background, vocabulary acquisition, and sensemaking. This requires us to position culturally responsive teaching as truly student-centered pedagogy that affirms and leverages students' diverse language practices and identities *in order to* teach them.

Target Audience: All educators

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 2 hours

Instructor: Andrea G. Kolb, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Education Officer at WITF, Inc.

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ELD Curriculum Development

December 5- 7, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. each day

This three-part online series introduces educators to the state's recommended ELD curriculum development framework. Educators will deep dive into the 2020 WIDA Standards, Understanding by Design (UbD), and linguistics while being guided through the development process in a step-by-step and modeled approach.

Target Audience: K-12 content teachers; K-12 ESL Specialists; school and district administrators

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: up to 9 hours

Instructors:

Andrea G. Kolb, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Education Officer at WITF, Inc.

Bob Measel, Title III Director and Bilingual Education Adviser, Pennsylvania Department of Education

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When Literacy Ate Language: Transitioning from Literacy Interventions to Multilingual Pedagogies

December 21, 2023 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

English learners often find themselves assigned to scripted literacy interventions to address their below-grade-level reading abilities. Yet, this designation does not often consider the intersections between multilingual learning and literacy development, and, worse yet, most literacy interventions assigned to ELs are actually designed for use with monolingual students. In this session, we will explore ways to move from commonplace scripted literacy interventions to practices that situate literacy in a multilingual pedagogical framework.

Target Audience: K-12 ELA teachers, ESL Specialists, Reading Specialists, and K-12 ESL Specialists; school and district administrators

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 1.5 hours

Instructor: Andrea G. Kolb, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Education Officer at WITF, Inc.

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WIDA Professional Learning Workshops

Planning with the WIDA ELD Standards Framework

This workshop consists of two webinars in addition to online self-paced modules. Educators and leaders will learn how the various components of the 2020 edition of the WIDA English Language Development Standards work together to support equitable access to high quality learning opportunities for multilingual learners. Participants will explore how the Standards Framework can support instructional planning and collaboration. Prior to the workshop, participants will receive information about online learning activities to complete prior to the first webinar and will have learning opportunities between the two webinars. Access to online resources to support implementation will be available following the workshop. Webinars will not be recorded. This course takes place in WIDA's Canvas platform. Once registering, you will be enrolled in the Canvas course, where you will go to participate in all aspects of the workshop.

Target Audience: This virtual workshop is designed for educators and leaders who are responsible for language development within content learning and implementation of the WIDA ELD Standards. Instructional teams are strongly encouraged to come together.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 4 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Live Webinar 1: September 26 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Live Webinar 2: October 3 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

WIDA Instructor: Edith Nava

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WIDA: Bringing Language into Focus: Expectations, Functions & Features

This workshop consists of two webinars in addition to online self-paced modules and gives K-12 educators an opportunity to take a closer look at the Key Language Uses by engaging in a deeper exploration of Language Expectations, Language Functions, and Language Features. Participants will learn the importance and purpose of mentor text to make language visible to students. Participants will engage in exploration of materials and additional resources to support their classroom implementation. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify Language Expectations: Language Functions and Language Features aligned to a Key Language Use in a content unit
- Connect the linguistic resources students bring to this learning context
- Leverage Language Functions and Language Features with students in instructional practice

Webinars will not be recorded. This course takes place in WIDA's Canvas platform. Once registering, you will be enrolled in the Canvas course, where you will go to participate in all aspects of the workshop.

Target Audience: This workshop is designed K-12 educators and focuses on intentional language instruction in the classroom using the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework (2020 edition).

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 5 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Live Webinar 1: October 12 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Live Webinar 2: October 26 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

WIDA Instructor: Kati Van Sicklen

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Nurturing Speaking Growth

This workshop includes one mandatory self-paced module and two live webinars. Participants will explore the underpinnings of the Speaking Test in a self-paced module that allows for choice and control. In the webinars, participants will engage in meaning making activities that provide ways to nurture students' speaking growth. This workshop is unique in that participants will be asked to speak and share ideas with colleagues during the webinars.

By engaging in the workshop, participants will:

- Apply the underpinnings of the Speaking Assessment to classroom practice
- Connect the Key Language Uses to instructional practices in speaking
- Explore the impact of holding the floor for extended classroom discourse
- Choose Teacher Moves to support student voice
- Develop an ear for language to support precision decisions

Please note: Participants must complete Module 1 before the first webinar and complete post-webinar tasks. Webinars will not be recorded. This course takes place in WIDA's Canvas platform. Once registering, you will be enrolled in the Canvas course, where you will go to participate in all aspects of the workshop.

Target Audience: This virtual workshop is designed to support all K-12 educators who would like to explore the connection between the ACCESS Speaking Test and classroom practices that promote oral language development.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 4 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Live Webinar 1: December 6 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Live Webinar 2: December 13 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

WIDA Instructor: Maya Martinez-Hart

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ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

WIDA Professional Learning Self-Paced Courses

We are excited to once again be able to offer all PA educators access to WIDA's full catalogue of online self-paced (asynchronous) courses! The following courses will be available beginning September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

[UPLOAD YOUR CERTIFICATE\(S\) OF COMPLETION](#) *Please note that Act 48 credits will be processed monthly. All certificates must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2024.

WIDA online asynchronous professional learning courses can be accessed on the [WIDA Secure Portal](#) under Professional Learning.

Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics

This workshop will focus on recognizing and designing mathematics instruction that simultaneously strengthens both mathematical reasoning and language development for multilingual learners. During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the benefits of giving students mathematics tasks to solve together and time to exchange ideas about their reasoning as well as how to find and insert reasoning activities into mathematics units. Participants will see and have opportunities to plan ways to support multilingual learners in becoming increasingly effective as they use language to express their own ideas and co-construct ideas with others.

Audience: This workshop is designed for educators who teach mathematics or support English language development in mathematics.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 4 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Engaging Multilingual Learners in Science: Making Sense of Phenomena

This workshop will provide multiple strategies for engaging multilingual students in the central work of sensemaking in science. Participants will receive several classroom tools to support their work and promote equitable engagement among all students. Through video, interactions, and reflection activities, science and language educators will learn to:

- Recognize the critical role of eliciting student ideas in science teaching and learning
- Identify considerations for selecting science phenomena that are relevant to students and effective for teaching science ideas
- Support student agency and authority in reasoning about phenomena
- Use teaching strategies that promote language development in the context of sensemaking

Audience: This workshop is designed for both science educators and language educators who support multilingual learners in science classrooms.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 3 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Exploring the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions (NEW!)

This workshop will introduce educators to the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions. Educators will have an opportunity to build their knowledge and understanding of the Essential Actions and to reflect on their own ideologies, practices, and settings. This workshop will invite participants to extend their learning in various ways, working independently, and/or collaborating with a colleague or colleagues. By engaging in this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Explore key concepts embedded in the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions to reflect on their personal beliefs, attitudes, and practices
- Examine the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions and Needs Assessments
- Apply one or more of the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions to current practice

Audience: This workshop is designed for educators who teach, or collaborate with teachers who teach, multilingual children in PreK-3 classrooms and programs.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 2 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Home Languages in the Classroom (ICMEE)

This workshop will focus on the essential question: How can I set up routines and learning activities that promote the use of home languages in my classroom? Participants will engage in five modules that include readings, videos, and activities to try with students. Educators will select ideas to try out in their classrooms and are encouraged to form a professional learning community or share their learning with colleagues. Modules 1-5 contain the following guiding questions that support participants in responding to the essential question:

1. What are some warm-up activities to bring home languages into my classroom?
2. How can I leverage the use of home languages when studying vocabulary?
3. How can I structure learning activities that require two or more languages, even if I am not in a bilingual school?
4. How can I help learners reflect upon their own bilingualism?
5. How can I encourage conversations about the language use of our students, families and communities?

Audience: This workshop is designed for K-12 educators who work with multilingual learners in any context.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 20 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Making Language Visible in the Classroom

This workshop highlights the Big Idea of a Functional Approach to Language Development. This offering gives K-12 educators an opportunity to review Key Language Uses (genre families) and Language Expectations with a focus on selecting and teaching Language Functions and Language Features to make language visible to students.

Audience: This workshop, designed for K-12 educators, focuses on intentional language instruction in the classroom using the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework(2020 edition).

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 1 hour. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Newcomers: Promoting Success through Strengthening Practice (NEW!)

Multilingual newcomers are the fastest growing demographic in U.S. school systems. Building relationships and ensuring that schools create welcoming communities is essential for multilingual newcomers' success. During this self-paced workshop, educators will be offered opportunities to challenge personal and systemic biases, create an atmosphere and system of shared responsibility, and incorporate and build on the rich resources that multilingual newcomers bring. Through multiple modalities, educators will explore topics that enhance their practice. Educators who participate in this workshop will be able to connect and share ideas with other educators. By engaging in this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Honor student voices to incorporate cultures and home languages
- Challenge biases and assumptions
- Create a sense of shared responsibility
- Build student-centered teacher agency

Audience: This workshop is designed for all K-12 educators.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 3 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Reframing Education for Long-term English Learners

This workshop will give educators an opportunity to reframe the education of multilingual learners classified as LTELs. Participants will examine, explore, and question assumptions educators may have, and recognize barriers for these students. Participants will find practices to support the instruction and language development of these multilingual learners. This workshop utilizes videos, interactive activities, and stories of students to support reframing the education of multilingual learners classified as LTELs.

Audience: This workshop is designed for K-12 educators and administrators that support the teaching of multilingual learners who could be classified as long-term English learners (LTELs).

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 1 hour. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

Social Studies: Engaging Multilingual Learners through Inquiry

This workshop will focus on the use of student and class assets to plan inquiry-based instruction. Through readings, interactions, and videos, participants will identify the benefits and investigate the components of an inquiry approach. Additionally, participants will explore how to consider the content and language needs of multilingual learners in social studies. Participants will:

- Identify ways to leverage multilingual learners' assets to support their learning in inquiry-based approaches for social studies
- Recognize the benefits of using an inquiry approach in social studies to strengthen disciplinary reasoning and skills
- Investigate questions, tasks, and sources as a way to support multilingual learners in becoming increasingly effective as they use language to make meaning in an inquiry.

Audience: This workshop is designed for educators who teach or support English language development in social studies.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 3 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.

The WIDA ELD Standards Framework: A Collaborative Approach

This workshop explores ways to use the WIDA ELD Standards Framework (2020 edition) to support multilingual learners' achievement and language development. Each module engages participants in components of the WIDA Standards and contains prompts for educators to discuss the module topic in local settings. Ideally, groups of educators commit to engaging in the modules individually and to meeting on a bi/weekly basis to discuss the module topics. By engaging in this workshop, participants will build their skills in:

- Identifying the purpose and function of the components of the WIDA Standards.
- Describing ways to use the components of the WIDA Standards.

Audience: This workshop is designed to support educators in using the WIDA ELD Standards Framework (2020 edition) in local settings.

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 4 hours. Educators must complete all aspects of the workshop and submit their WIDA certificate of completion to be awarded Act 48 credits.