

To: Program Directors, Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, and ESOL Teachers

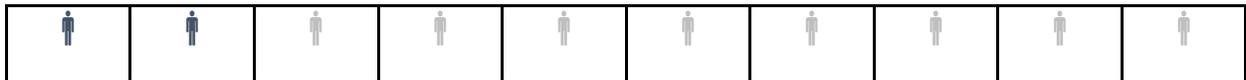
From: Wyvonne Stevens-Carter, Adult Education State Director

Date: March 3, 2021

Re: Professional Development Opportunity: Standards-in-Action for English Learners

You know that 10 out of 10, or 100%, of the students enrolled in your ESOL classes are English learners. That's why you ensure ESOL teachers understand second language acquisition (SLA) and use instructional practices that support SLA.

But do you know the percent of students enrolled in your ABE classes who are English learners (ELs)? If the blue silhouettes are first language speakers and the gray ones are English learners, which of the charts below look like your ABE classes?



Why do we ask? **Because it makes a difference!**

Research shows that Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) are not enough to prepare students for cognitively demanding academic and workplace contexts and that it takes ELs at least five years to develop [Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency \(CALP\)](#).

Standards-in-Action for ELs is a national professional development opportunity from the Office of Career and Technical Adult Education (OCTAE) for both ESOL teachers and ABE teachers (of any of the following content areas: math, ELA, social studies, science) that have ELs in their content classes. This training will focus on how to design instruction for ELs that addresses two critical needs: language and content development.

If you are an ABE/ASE teacher of math, ELA, social studies, or science and wonder how you can better support the ELs in your class to master the content you teach, this training is for you.

If you are an ESOL teacher and wonder how you can better support your students' engagement with complex content and prepare them for next steps (e.g., transition to content area classes), this training is for you.

If you are a program director and wonder how you can better support both your ESOL and ABE/ASE teachers to collaborate and accelerate outcomes for ABE/ASE and ESOL learners, promote this PD opportunity among your teachers.

ACLS is accepting applications to form a team of ten Massachusetts ABE, ASE and ESOL adult educators that will participate in this training in the August-September 2021 cohort. For more information on this training, please visit the Standards-in-Action for ELs webpage [here](#).

Programs who are interested in being part of the MA Standards-in-Action for ELs team must email Dana Varzan-Parker with the names of the proposed participating teachers and a copy of their resume by March 31, 2021 at dana.varzan-parker@mass.gov. Selected programs will receive a budget increase in FY22 to support teacher time and participation in this training.