

Advisory Committee for English Learners
Meeting #1
In-Person Syphax Room 202
Wednesday, 9-17-25

Attending: Karli Boothe, Luisa Concepcion, Ann Kennedy, Robin Liten-Tejada, Michelle Marrero, Sam Klein (Staff Liaison)

Absent: Amy Graham, Anjy Cramer, Anne Zebra

Minutes approved at our 10/15/25 meeting: 5 Approve, No abstentions or Nay

Agenda with Minutes in italics

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Share why you are interested in this committee, as well as a fun fact about yourself! (*DONE*)
- II. Approval of May minutes (if quorum is present) (*DONE - 4 Approve, 1 Abstain*)
- III. EL updates from Sam: kicking off the new year
 - *OEL participated in BASE Camp for all new teachers.*
 - *Also conducted prof dev for new EL teachers, including how services are provided. We have many new teachers who have received a provisional license through Praxis, including some who have lost federal jobs like USAID.*
 - *We have 278 EL teachers.*
 - *This year OEL will be going into schools, modeling lessons, looking at data, working with CLTs*
 - *Will have semi-support groups for new/newish teachers, focusing on best practices for newcomers, but very hard to get subs so have to narrow down how many teachers can be pulled.*
 - *There are new accountability measures in Virginia. Progress on ACCESS will count for 10% of school's accountability. Principals are asking how can they see if students are progressing. There are new WIDA Language Charts that can be used for progress monitoring.*
 - *The challenge is that you need at least 2 years of ACCESS testing to measure progress and the test is changing this year. But this has helped encourage admins to invite OEL into schools to focus on ELs.*
 - *Still implementing DOJ agreements*

Our Questions

- ***How many EL teachers are dual certified in another content area?***

- ***Please share the data with us on student progress on ACCESS***

IV. Review work last year. Discuss:

- A. How committees work (Sam)
- B. How we arrived at the [draft recommendations](#).
- C. Feedback/Questions?
- D. Possibility of speaking with other students

- *We reviewed the process of developing the recommendations.*
- *The question was raised why our first recommendation focuses on oral language when the “Performance Objective” says “Reading & Math”.*
- *We discussed how high school teachers report being very concerned about students moving quickly into English 11, 12 and on to graduation in this 4-year push who haven’t had time to develop their reading proficiency. With the new accountability system, we have to follow this.*
- *These students are not able to pass the English End-of-Course reading test and take the Work Keys alternative, but sometimes have to take it multiple times.*
- *Michelle said that for the past 8 years, the PSAT reading score can be used as an alternative, if students are not able to pass the SOL or the Work Keys.*
- *Also discussed how we would like to speak with students experiencing challenges, to see if they have the same feedback or suggestions as the highly motivated groups we spoke with.*
- *Sam expressed reservations about singling out those students. We discussed perhaps speaking with transfer students at ACHS. Since ACEL members were absent tonight who also wanted to conduct other interviews, we tabled discussion for now whether to pursue another round of conversations.*
- *We’ll continue to work on refining first recommendation.*
- *Re second recommendation about co-teaching: Dr. Sampson is putting EL & SPED schedules first, working on co-planning*
- *OEL staff are going to schools to model co-teaching*
- *Collective bargaining agreement says a teacher can only have 2 co-teacher plannings, so schools are working on that.*
- *“We’re making progress but not where we want to be yet”*
- *We can also recommend teachers work just within one content area.*

V. Other issues/questions for 2025-2026: What other issues or questions is the committee interested in focusing on this year? (*Did not discuss*)

VI. Upcoming

- A. Advisory committee structure is changing. An ACTL rep may come to a meeting to explain new plan.
- *Note: A representative of the Working Committee to revise the Advisory Group format will likely be invited to our next meeting to answer questions. I will send the slides outlining the changes before our meeting to get your feedback. Basically the proposal is to eliminate the current advisory committee structure to streamline the number of recommendations delivered to the Board.*
- B. Science committee will likely seek our support for their recommendation
- C. State changed guidance for Advisory Committees: can now have 50% of meetings online, and individuals can attend 25% of in person meetings virtually. We need to vote on this, if quorum is present.
- *We voted 5-0 to approve the option for our committee to have 50% of our meetings online, with individuals having the possibility to attend 25% of the in-person meetings virtually.*

VII. Wrap Up

- A. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 15