



ENGLISH LEARNER — NEWS —

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News and Announcements

Click on the hyperlinks to access important news and information.

New English Learner (EL) Staffing Ratio Approved

As of April 10, 2020, approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor, there is a new EL staffing ratio included in Virginia's Standards of Quality (SOQ). Current law requires state funding to support 17 full-time equivalent instructional positions for each 1,000 students identified as ELs. [House Bill 975](#) provides for state funding for 18.5 such positions for each 1,000 students identified as EL for the 2020-2021 school year, followed by an increase to 20 for the 2021-2022 school year.

This new EL staffing ratio is expected to go into effect on July 1, 2020, pending final budget approval from the Governor.

VDOE Partnership with Spanish-Language Radio Station Supports Learning for Students and Families

“[Virginia: Educación en Radio](#)” will feature prerecorded lessons by teachers across the Commonwealth in multiple subject areas to support continuity of learning for Spanish-speaking students in grades K-12 while schools are closed to slow the spread of COVID-19. Lessons can be accessed via the radio station, by calling in, or visiting their social media page for the project until June 30, 2020. Email VDOE's [EL Instruction Specialist](#) if you are interested in submitting a recorded lesson.



Resources for English Learners, Families, and School Personnel during COVID-19

[MERC's English Learner Research and Evaluation Team](#) (ELRET) developed this [list of resources](#) to help Virginia's ELs, their families, and school personnel as they navigate the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. The list is available in both English and Spanish.

Please [contact MERC's ELRET](#) to recommend additional resources. It will be updated periodically.

Continuity for Learning (C4L) Professional Development Guidance

In an effort to support Virginia leaders, the VDOE announces the creation of the [Continuity for Learning \(C4L\) Professional Development \(PD\) Guidance document](#) in collaboration with VDOE staff and nonprofit organizations.

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) in Collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico Announces Free Spanish Educational Materials

Thanks to the international partnership between Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., Martha Bárcena, and CAL, teachers across the U.S. now have free access to [hundreds of multimedia Spanish resources online](#), including complete textbooks, lesson plans, video clips, maps and more. These video lessons, books, movies and TV shows are age-appropriate for both the K-12 settings and can be adapted to adult learning as well.

Call for Nominations: 2020-2021 WIDA Fellows

WIDA is announcing a call for nominations for the second class of WIDA Fellows. The WIDA Fellows program brings expert teachers and WIDA professional learning specialists together in a collaborative effort to enhance the development of WIDA professional learning products and services. In establishing these fellowships, WIDA formally acknowledges the invaluable role of exemplary teachers of bilingual and multilingual learners in advancing the field in collaboration with professional development and research partners. All nominees must be exemplary teachers of bilingual and/or multicultural learners.

To learn more about the WIDA Fellows program and/or nominate an educator, visit the [WIDA Fellows page](#) on the WIDA website. Nominations should come from a division or school leader; no self-nominations, please.

VDOE Updates and Resources (Repeated from Prior Newsletters as Reminders)

- [Updates, Information, Guidance, and Resources from the VDOE](#) related to the extended school closure, including FAQs
- [Continuity for Learning: Virginia Learns Anywhere! Resource Document \(pages 43-45 are EL- specific\)](#)

Professional Learning Opportunities

Click on the hyperlinks to access more information or to register.

Monday Morning Mingle: EL Instruction Strategy and Resource Share

Part of VDOE's EL Instruction Monthly Webinar Series; Repeating every Monday Morning until June Teachers and Leaders join to ask questions and share ideas for supporting ELs in distance settings ("unconference" format) [May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.](#)

3 Steps for Writing Differentiated Academic Sentence Stems [May 4, 2020; 11:30 a.m.- 12:30p.m.](#)

Adapting Instruction for English Learner Students During Distance Learning: Perspective From Practitioners. [May 5, 2020; 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.](#)

CAL's Cómo fomentar el desarrollo de la lengua y la lectoescritura en español [May 5, 2020; 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.](#)

VATESOL Town Hall Weekly Zoom Chats [May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2020, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.](#)

[Submit questions here](#)

Supporting SLIFE During Distance Learning [May 11, 2020; 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.](#)

Foundations of Dual Language Education [May 12, 2020; 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.](#)

Building Literacy and Language Skills Online: Focus on Kindergarten; Part of VDOE's EL Instruction Monthly Webinar Series [May 18, 2020; 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.](#)

CAL's Fostering Spanish Language and Literacy Development Webinar [May 19, 2020; 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.](#)

CAL's SIOP for Dual Language Programs - A Focus on Scaffolding for Students Learning in Two Languages Webinar [May 26, 2020; 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.](#)

Recordings Available:

- [Highest Aspiration Podcast](#) (variety of topics)

- [Be GLAD](#) (variety of topics)
- [Virtual Professional Development Webinars](#) (variety of topics)
- [Apoyando a Nuestros Estudiantes en Casa / Supporting Students Learning at Home](#)

Principles and Promising Practices

This section includes links to recent articles and resources that support quality instruction for ELs.

[Teachers use Tech to Reach ELs](#): This report shares high- and low- tech ways teachers are working to reach their ELs during school closures. You can find an additional video [here](#) with tips and inspiration for working with English learners remotely.

[Collaboration is Key](#): Transitioning to new styles and modes of teaching provides an opportunity to increase collaboration! Join this WIDA Facebook group to hear strategies and tips from EL educators across the country.

Content Connections

Be sure to sign up for [Teacher Direct](#) and the [EdEquityVA Newsletter](#) to get information about additional professional learning opportunities and resources!

Contact

Email VDOE's [EL Instruction Specialist](#) to have newsletters sent directly to your inbox or to recommend topics or resources for inclusion in upcoming editions. To ensure the letter comes to your inbox, please add jessica.costa@doe.virginia.gov to your contact and safe-senders lists.