



**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
Adult Basic and Literacy Education
Division of Adult Education and Literacy**

FACT SHEET SERIES

Transitioning English Language Learners (TELL)

Background

Little is known about the instructional, programmatic, or policy practices that support adult advanced English language learners' (ELLs') transitions from federally funded English as a second language (ESL) services into Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Adult Secondary Education (ASE) programs, where they can attain a high school equivalency credential. Even less is known about the extent to which the effectiveness of these transitions is being measured.

Overview

The Transitioning English Language Learners (TELL) project will expand knowledge regarding effective strategies for transitioning adult ELLs from ESL to ABE and ASE programs. The American Institutes for Research (AIR), under contract with the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, will identify ten adult education programs in at least three states that offer evidence of successful strategies for transitioning ELLs from ESL to other adult education services. AIR will observe and document these strategies as well as interview students, teachers and staff. The resulting data-rich descriptions will be summarized in a final report. The project period runs from July 2008 to July 2010.

Project Milestones

- Developed an annotated bibliography that documents instructional and programmatic strategies that help adult ELLs transition from ESL to ABE and ASE programs, November 2008
- Identified ten program sites implementing promising practices, March 2009
- Provide a summary of findings from ten sites implementing promising practices, April 2010
- Prepare report that describes current practices for transitioning adult ELLs and that includes findings and makes recommendations for future research and implications for policy, July 2010

Outcomes and Products

- A report with recommendations for next steps to promote the transition of adult English language learners to ABE and ASE programs so they can attain a high school equivalency credential and be prepared for postsecondary education and the demands of the 21st century workforce.

Web site:

http://www.air.org/projects/projects_ehd_adult_ed.aspx#TELL

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