

Project Exc-EL (Excellence for English Learners) Development Grant

Absolute Priority #5 Improving Outcomes for ELs; subpart (a)

Partner LEAs: Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns; the Ossining Union Free School District; and the White Plains City School District.

Project Partners: Center for Secondary School Redesign; RSHM Life Center, Pace University, Westchester Community College, Plus Alpha Research

Funding Partners: Louis R. Capelli Foundation; Ritz Carlton Hotel; Open Door Family Medical Centers; Jacob Burns Center for Film and Media Arts

The design addresses the needs of low-incidence EL population school districts struggling to provide a rigorous education for the newest members of their communities. It employs a data-driven, tiered approach to instruction that builds on partnerships to create personalized, expanded learning opportunities for students. It will impact *all secondary EL students within the project districts* (738 students). Individualized, personalized learning plans and a tiered system of interventions ('RTI') will be used to track and adjust student activities.

Goals:

1. Educators and will possess the knowledge and skills needed to effectively educate ELs within a framework of tiered interventions.
2. Structural elements of each school will ensure EL students are part of a smaller learning community with a common team of teachers and personalization supports.
3. An interagency, inter-district team will be formed to leverage and share resources and provide support for at-risk EL students and their families.
4. An objective evaluation process will be integrated into project activities to document and improve process and outcomes.

Outcomes: EL students ...

1. Are engaged, self-directed learners.
2. Demonstrate proficiency on state assessments in core content areas.
3. Progress in school and remain on track to graduate.
4. Graduate prepared to successfully engage in postsecondary education and careers.