



# Multilingual Learners Newsletter

## November 2022

### Formative Assessments to Guide Instruction

How do we know what our students can do? How do we help students go from what they know and can do to learning and doing the next level up? How do we challenge students and encourage them to keep learning? According to Gabriela Cardenas and Margaret Heritage, authors of [\*Formative Assessment: A Key to Improving Learning for English Learners\*](#), “Formative assessment practices involve: **communicating** or co-creating with students **clear** and **realistic learning goals** and **success criteria** aligned to the lesson; eliciting **evidence** through **discussions, tasks, and activities** in the lesson; **feedback**; and **self- and peer assessment**.”

Diane Staehr Fenner with [SupportED](#) provides some free resources to help educators with formative assessment. Check out the [Formative Assessment Checklist](#) and

[Formative Assessment Choice Board](#). When teachers are able to communicate clear expectations and success criteria, students know what they are learning and understand the purpose of the activities. Teachers can observe and provide feedback to help further learning. Peer and self-assessments are a healthy learning process and empower students to become more involved in their own learning. Teachers can use the formative assessment process to tailor future lessons in response to what students need.



Recognizing language differences is also important. The following resources help educators learn about various languages and some of the common errors English learners make and how to help them.

- [\*Learner English: A Teacher's Guide to Interference and Other Problems\*](#)
- [\*Keys to Teaching Grammar to English Language Learners, Second Ed.: A Practical Handbook\*](#)
- [\*Comparison of Language Differences Versus Disabilities\*](#)

**Guidance:** The term **English Learner** is the term used to describe students who have a language other than English in their background and who are learning English in the United States. This is the legal term used in ESEA. The terms **multilingual learner** and **emergent bilingual** are additional terms that reflect a more asset-based view of learning languages. These terms are often used in school settings, with families, and with students.

[NCELA Guidance for Title III EL and IE](#)

[NDE ADVISER Guidance](#)



## Spotlight: Heidi Jo Bartlett with Peru State College: Connecting Content and Assessments



Heidi Jo Bartlett has taught for nearly 20 years in the field of language education. Having taught both in the United States and abroad, she is in her 6<sup>th</sup> year as a faculty member in the School of Education at Peru State College. Heidi Jo presented about connecting content and assessments at MIDTESOL in September 2022. As teachers develop their classroom assessments, they often focus on new vocabulary and content from the lesson or the unit. However, for our English Learners, explicit connections between content, language, and assessment are often neglected. She provided two key questions to help teachers focus

on for ELs: What are the key ideas or concepts needed for the student to continue successfully in your class or to the next unit? What are topics or vocabulary that will reoccur throughout the school year? For more information, see Heidi Jo's [presentation](#) with her contact information. ([Reference](#))

### Upcoming EL Collaborative Groups:

[EL Coalition](#) - November 16, 9-3 ([Register](#) for in person or Zoom), December 9, 1-2 (Special Guest from [Set Me Free Project](#))

[Multilingual Higher Ed Group](#) - November 29, 1:30-2:30 (Zoom)

[NE EL Teachers Collaborative](#) - Coffee Chat Zoom, December 7, 3:30-4:15 pm CT

[CAAELP](#) - November 17, 3:00-3:45 pm CT

### **Additional Resources:**

- Project ASSETS Podcast - Watch [this promo on YouTube](#)! Sign up with Spotify and/or Apple Podcasts.
  - <https://open.spotify.com/episode/0PTsL4QeEiEOskSwOBvzWx>
  - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/assets/id1646683275>
- Project ASSETS Family Leadership institute - New Cohort Starting in January - See the Flyers for more information ([FLI English Flyer](#), [FLI Spanish Flyer](#))
- ELPA21 Workshops - See What is Offered for Nebraska
  - [Nebraska 2022-23 ELPA21 Professional Learning Workshops](#)
- NAELPA Webinar: [Effective Literacy Instruction for Secondary Newcomers](#) November 15 @4pm ET/3pm CT/2pm MT
- [Conozca NWU](#) Event on November 12, 2022 for Latino and Spanish-speaking students and families



**Questions:** Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your MLL students or program.



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