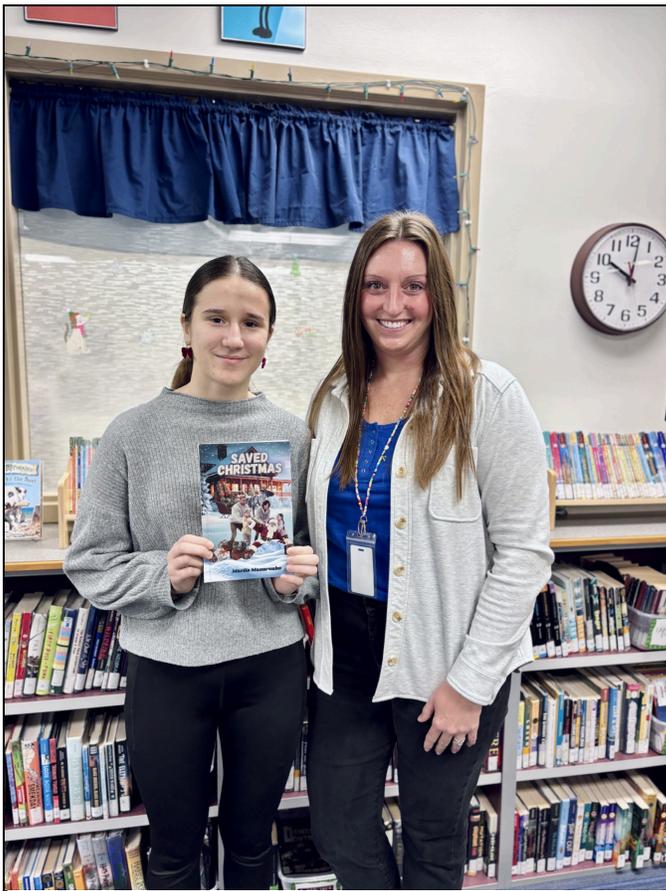




# English/Multilingual Learners Newsletter March 2026

## Honoring Students' Experiences and Backgrounds



Mariia Mazurenko and Mrs. Brittini Peltz

Many school districts and our ESU Title III Consortium Directors often have questions about allowable uses for Title III funds. One question was asked last semester that led to learning more about a wonderful project at Malcolm High School. They published a student's story so that she could have a hardcover book and be a published author. Here is their story...

What started out as a class assignment last school year, turned into much more for a student from Ukraine at Malcolm Public Schools. Mariia was tasked with writing a short novel for an English 9 assignment. Now, as a 10th grader, she continued to add and edit it to refine and enhance it. Her high school English teacher, Mr. Jeff Donahue, and her EL teacher, Mrs. Brittini Peltz, both told her that she should publish it because it was so well-written. With the help of Mrs. Peltz, that dream turned into a reality, and she was able to surprise all of her family by gifting them this hardcover Christmas book as they were celebrating the holiday. She also received support from teachers who purchased this book with pride for her accomplishment.

"It was so special to see this come into fruition for this student. This project empowered Mariia in huge ways, and helped her to see that she can accomplish such big, incredible things. This has provided such encouragement and built great confidence in her. She now has a desire to continue writing books, and I look forward to seeing where this takes her. I am so beyond proud of her!" -Mrs. Peltz

"I am so proud of Mariia for the work that she has put into getting her story published. She is a wonderful young lady with a lot of talent!" -Mr. Donahue



## Spotlight: Malcolm Title I and EL Teacher Brittnei Peltz and Student Mariia Mazurenko

Message from the student author:

"When I started writing this book, I never imagined it would ever be published. I just wrote from my heart and enjoyed the moment, not knowing how special it would become. When I finally saw my book in print, I was shocked and very moved. It was a moment I will never forget. I was proud of myself and grateful to everyone who supported me. Seeing my work in print helped me believe in myself and my abilities." -Mariia Mazurenko



### Guidance:

Title III EL expenditures allowable based on Section 3115(d)(2) which lists the allowable activity of "Improving the instructional program for ELs by identifying, acquiring, and upgrading curricula, instructional materials, educational software, and assessment procedures". Districts need to make sure they are using Title III EL funds for each of the three required activities (instruction, professional learning, and parent/family/community engagement).. And if they identify or acquire curricula, materials, or software in this grant year, and decide to include it as part of their core EL program during the next grant year, they won't be able to pay anything related to this using Title III EL funds in the next grant year.

### EL Coalition Spring Meeting April 15, 2026 - Literacy Focus

- [In-person registration](#) (Registration fee covers workshop fees. Note: Please request any hotel and mileage reimbursement through your district Title III EL PD funds.)
- [Zoom option registration](#)

### Additional Resources:

- Check out [Nebraska Growing Readers](#)
- [NDE Literacy Professional Learning Resources](#)
- [NDE Instructional Practice Guides](#)
- [NDE Adolescent Literacy](#)
- [Storyworld](#) - educators sign up for free
- [Unite For Literacy](#) - Free Online Resources in Multiple Languages
- [Planting Seeds Conference](#) April 29, 2026 in Kearney
- [Pathwise](#) (formerly TransACT ParentNotices) There are documents to support all areas of education. NDE currently provides the subscription and anyone can [self-onboard](#). [Log in here](#). (The subscription with NDE will end after this school year.)



Questions: Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your EL/ML students or program.



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