

English Mastery Council: Progress and Updates 2019

Accomplishments/Further
Work/Recommendations

Presenter: Dr. Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola,
Chair, English Mastery Council

80th Legislative Session & the English Mastery Council (EMC)

- The EMC was established in 2013 and scheduled to end in June 2019
- The Interim Education Committee proposed AB 92:
 - Proposed extension until June 2022
 - Included fiscal note to support the work of the EMC
 - Proposed a new responsibility for the EMC:
 - *NRS 388.411 Sec 1.7: “To make recommendations to the State Board to improve the English proficiency and academic achievement of pupils who are not English learners and who have scored at or below the 25th percentile.”*

EMC Subcommittees

The EMC is organized into 3 subcommittees that research issues and provide recommendations to the full EMC:

- District Policy and Criteria Planning Subcommittee
- Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Subcommittee
- Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee

District EL Policy Subcommittee

- District English Learner (EL) Policy Criteria Recommendations
 - EMC proposed District EL Policy Criteria to the State Board 2014
 - Adopted as regulation under R106-15 in 2018
- EMC, with NDE support, evaluated all District EL policies and identified areas of concern:
 - Eligibility and access to Gifted/advanced program opportunities
 - Over identification of English Learners in Special Education
 - Involvement of parents of EL students on parent advisory groups
- EMC and NDE presented at the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) on March 9, 2019:

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Subcommittee

- Assisted in the development of the “Debunking Myths of English Learners” document
- Conduct research and provide recommendations to ensure equitable access to Gifted and Advanced programming for English Learners
- Conduct research regarding state policies related to developmental delay eligibility for English Learners
- Partnership between Nevada System of Higher Education and the NDE on projects supporting and developing educator and administrator capacity to serve English learners in Nevada

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Subcommittee (continued)

- Proposed revised courses for the new ELAD endorsement
- Nevada colleges and universities are in the process of incorporating required ELAD courses into Elementary, Secondary, and ARL education programs
- In Spring 2018, the EMC co-sponsored a webinar with NSHE and NDE to address frequently asked questions regarding the implementation of new ELAD coursework and timeline
- Participated in discussions with NDE educator quality office regarding effective instruction for ELs as defined by the NEPF standards, rubrics, and training materials

Standards & Curriculum Subcommittee

- Recommendations to State Board of Education to adopt the WIDA English Language Development Standards as the Nevada English Language Development Standards
- Recommend and serve in an advisory role in NDE's development of an ELD standards framework to assist educators in designing classroom instruction that builds English language development and access to rigorous content
- Collaborate with NDE regarding rubrics and recommendations for ELD curricula

Closing and Questions