

Title: Standards and Assessment Recognition - Title IV, part A

Date: January 12, 2023

Recognition of Progress, Achievements, or Improvements January 2024

The Utah State Board of Education's mission is to open doors of opportunity for all Utah children.

This month, we highlight the work of the following area that deserves recognition.

Fall 2023 USBE Equity Lab: Equitable Resource Allocation for Students who are English Learners.

The Equity Labs were started in 2019 to provide a professional learning opportunity for local education agencies to review their data, identify disproportionalities in student achievement, and create action plans to support student learning and excellence. Holly Bell and Kristin Campbell have worked on the planning and implementing equity labs since they began. Holly Bell has been the driving force to reach out to districts and charter schools and organize professional learning. Previous equity lab topics have included access to highly effective teachers, access to early college readiness coursework, and support for middle school student achievement. Each professional learning opportunity was designed to align with the [Strategic Plan](#) and Utah's [Portrait of a Graduate](#). More than 75% of the districts have attended at least one Equity Lab, and many have attended multiple times.

The Fall 2023 Equity Lab focused on Resource Allocation for students who are English Learners, with emphasis placed on inviting schools that had been identified as TSI, ATSI, or CSI. Districts and Charter Schools that attended were presented with state-level data for students who are English Learners and individual school data associated with student growth, student outcomes, and teacher credentials and retention. During the professional learning, districts and charter schools identified restraining and driving forces associated with their self-established goals. A few examples of identified goals include increasing teacher capacity in Tier 1 instruction, recruitment and retention of highly qualified educators, embracing the needs of students who are English learners, addressing opportunity gaps identified in their data, reducing chronic absenteeism, and strengthening family engagement.

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Districts and Charter Schools were given information about USBE resources and research into supporting students who are English learners. Recognition was given to an exemplary teacher, John Arthur, a sixth-grade teacher in Salt Lake City District, who is one of the few teachers in the state with continuous amazing high growth and success with students who are English learners. John shared practices he uses to help his students succeed.

The Equity Labs could not have succeeded without the collective effort and expertise provided by our dedicated and amazing USBE staff.

Participating Staff:

- Holly Bell, Student and Family Rights Specialist
- Kristin Campbell, Research Analyst III, Teaching, Learning and Licensing
- Susie Estrada, Family Engagement
- Dr. James Martin, School Improvement
- Dr. Gregory Firn, School Improvement
- Val Murdock, Title I
- Dr. Christelle Estrada, Title III: English Learners, refugees, immigrants
- Jordan Green, Data and Research
- Sara Doutre, School Improvement (special education)
- Dr. Max Lang, Title I
- Maggie Cummings, School Improvement
- Syd Tesch, Administrative Assistant

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