



WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
WRITING PROJECT

Western Massachusetts Writing Project Professional Development Program

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Reaching and Teaching All Learners

Pathways to Recertification: Supporting ELLs & Students with Diverse Learning Styles

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires that all teachers who renew their licenses on or after July 1, 2016, earn “at least 15 PDPs related to Sheltered English Instruction or English as a Second Language” and “at least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and instruction of students with diverse learning styles.”

WMWP offers 15-PDP courses in SEI/ESL and working with diverse learners as well as a combination and extension option for three graduate credits. WMWP professional development programs are facilitated by experienced teacher-consultants who model effective pedagogical practices and strategies to improve student outcomes. All WMWP courses use an inquiry approach that encourages participants to reflect on their own practice, collaborate with other educators, and apply their learnings from the professional development to their own classrooms and content areas.

Promoting Academic Language (15 PDPs)

Following the principles of Sheltered English Instruction and using the WIDA framework, this course will provide theory and practice for educators to broaden their understanding of the academic language demands of different disciplines, in order to make content accessible to English Language Learners. All sessions will follow the model-collaborate-implement-reflect approach.

Overview of Sessions (3 hours each)

1. Understanding ELLs in Cultural Contexts
2. Vocabulary Theories & Practices
3. Reading & Analyzing Complex Texts
4. Designing SEI-Aligned Lessons Using Language & Content Objectives
5. Sharing, Feedback, & Moving Forward

These overviews are samples; either course can be customized to meet the needs of teachers in a particular school or district. Three-hour sessions may be offered on separate days, or two may be combined in a full professional development day. The cost for either course is \$2,500.

Teaching Diverse Learners (15 PDPs)

Following the principles of Universal Design for Learning, educators will acquire the skills necessary to remove barriers and build on the strengths of individual learners. Working collaboratively, participants will receive instruction in designing goals and lessons that utilize flexible instructional methods, materials, and assessments to engage all students and increase participation of diverse learners in the classroom setting.

Overview of Sessions (3 hours each)

1. Self-Assessment & Principles of UDL
2. Lesson Study: Analyzing Barriers to Learning
3. Tools & Technology for Removing Barriers
4. Designing UDL-Aligned Lessons
5. Sharing & Assessing Student Work

Reaching and Teaching All Learners Combination Course (3 credits or 67.5 PDPs)

This graduate course includes both of the above 15-PDP components plus a five-hour extension focusing on curriculum development and/or action research, including analysis of student work. Cost: \$5,000. (Participants may enroll for University of Massachusetts graduate credit at an additional cost of \$345 each.)