

Using research and data to promote academic growth among English learners in Texas

English learners (ELs) face many persistent academic challenges, including low achievement and high dropout rates. The **English Learners Research Alliance**, a collaborative partnership of educators, policymakers, and researchers, seeks to improve outcomes for ELs through **research and analytic technical support**.

“*The alliance provides much needed information and opportunities for us to come together. In my case, I am the only one at the district level with a focus on ELs; therefore, this alliance has become an important ‘lifeline’ for my continued growth.*”

— Elizabeth Gongora, Coordinator,
Sharyland Independent School District

Alliance priorities and work



Academic growth and language proficiency

- ▶ **Webinar and conference series:** Teaching academic content and literacy to ELs in grades 1–8 and facilitating professional learning communities to support researched-based instruction
- ▶ **Study:** Trajectories to language proficiency and content-area mastery for Texas Hispanic ELs
- 🎯 **The data/strategies are helping educators better support ELs’ language/academic development**

Effective services for English learners

- ▶ **Workshop:** Designing intensive programs and services for ELs
- ▶ **Webinar:** Helping newcomers succeed through effective programs and practices
- ▶ **Webinar:** Building biliteracy instruction, programs, and services
- ▶ **Study:** Teacher certification and student progress: Houston Independent School District (HISD)
- 🎯 **Alliance members are using the practices to improve their EL programs/services; the study data are informing teacher hiring and assignment decisions at HISD and other TX districts**

Gifted and talented English learners

- ▶ **Technical assistance:** Trends in the identification of gifted and talented English learners in Texas
- 🎯 **The data are informing state and local educators as to the rate, pattern, and timing of the identification of gifted/talented ELs in grades K–5 and as to effective identification practices**

Early warning systems for English learners

- ▶ **Technical assistance, workshops, and webinars:** Early warning and risk prevention for ELs
- 🎯 **Alliance members and staff at participating school districts built their capacity to use data and tracking systems to target and support ELs at risk of falling behind academically or dropping out**

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