

“Observation Tools and Techniques for Administrators and Teachers”

EIS Academic Session
TESOL’s 44TH Annual Convention, Boston, MA
Saturday, March 27, 10:00AM

Agenda

I. Introduction of Panel Members, Agenda Review *Laura Lukens*

Essential Questions

1. What essential information do administrators need about second language acquisition in order to observe and evaluate ELL/EFL teachers?
2. What are exemplary teacher observation practices in EFL settings? How do these guide reform efforts in schools in developing countries?
3. What are key indicators of effective ELL instruction that administrators should look for during walk-throughs and observations?
4. How can elementary ELL teachers coach their administrators to observe them?
5. How can administrators determine if they are meeting the needs of their ELL teachers and students?

II. Background Information about English Language Learners *Ari Sherris*

- Administrators need to have a basic understanding of issues affecting ELLs’ academic achievement. This part of the session will focus on debunking myths about ELLs and second language acquisition in order to prepare administrators to observe more effectively in classrooms with English Language Learners.

III. Practices in International Development *Janet Orr, Ari Sherris*

- Classroom and teacher observation in developing countries generally focuses on identifying areas in need of change in the education program. The presenters will share model instruments developed for observation at schools conducted by development partners. The results of data collected using the instruments will guide the partners and local stakeholders as they identify reforms across the school that will assure student academic success.

IV. Indicators of Effective ELL Instruction in Elementary ELL Classrooms *Laura Lukens*

- A short administrator’s checklist with indicators of effective ELL instruction will be shared. The presenter will demonstrate how the checklist is linked to a district’s ELL lesson planning model. The checklist will be reviewed in a brief PowerPoint presentation used for training administrators.

V. Coaching Your Administrator to Observe Your Elementary ELL Lesson *Ken Weaver*

- Teachers will be empowered to coach their administrators to observe and evaluate their lessons by using a dozen key questions focused on effective ELL instruction.

VI. Effective Walk Throughs + Extraordinary Leadership = ELL Achievement

Deborah Sams

- Administrators will receive a tool to focus on more effective 'walk throughs' and longer evaluations for classrooms with English language learners. Administrators will also self-assess leadership effectiveness using an instrument derived from practices of exemplary leaders who support ESL departments, teachers, and students.

Presenters' Biographical Information

Ari Sherris is a full-time research associate at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington DC. His research interests are in second language learning. He has educated language teachers on four continents. ari@cal.org

Janet Orr's work focuses on guiding teachers and teacher trainers toward instructional change as an administrator, teacher, teacher trainer, and program evaluator in the US (Colorado and Virginia) and overseas (Botswana, Jordan, Lithuania, Sri Lanka and Tanzania). She is an active consultant on planning and implementing effective primary school instructional programs, materials development, student assessment and program evaluation. jkorr@tealservices.net

Laura Lukens is the ELL Program Coordinator for North Kansas City Schools in Kansas City, Missouri and the Co-Director of Project EXCELL, a federal grant program that prepares mainstream teachers and university faculty to address the needs of ELLs. Laura is also Adjunct Professor of the Graduate School of Education, University of Missouri, Kansas City. llukens@nkcsd.k12.mo.us

Ken Weaver is currently an adjunct professor at both Lebanon Valley College and Millersville University in Pennsylvania, where he teaches courses for ESL certification endorsement and supervises student teachers. He previously spent over 33 years as a public school educator, in various roles including German teacher, elementary and secondary principal. He holds additional state certifications in English as a Second Language as well as Superintendent and Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction. kenweaver@inbox.com

Deborah Sams, PhD is an ESL teacher for Sevier County Schools. She was voted the 2010 TNTESOL ESL Educator of the Year. She has an interest in administrator training and effective teaching practices for ELLs in K-12 schools. Dsams727@msn.com