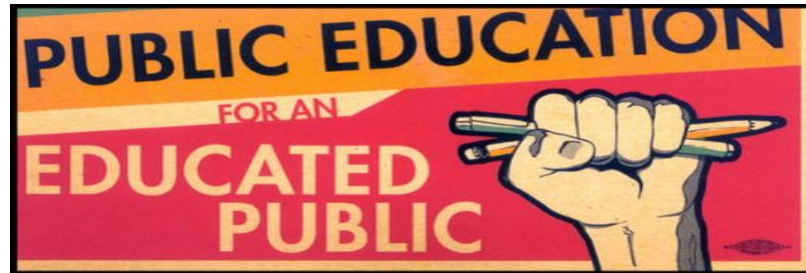




# ADVANCING ADVOCACY: A SITESOL OF FLORIDA ADVOCACY AND POLICY EDUCATION SERIES©

Part 2

January 9, 2021 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM EST



# Welcome back. We'll start soon. Meanwhile...

Cameras are encouraged. They must be on in small breakout rooms.

You are muted. Click to unmute and speak.

Rename yourself if needed.

Let's have an active chat. Say hello here and communicate with colleagues.

Hover over the bottom of your screen to view the controls.

You can share your screen in your breakout room.

Share emoticons.





# SSTESOL Advocacy Team



Dr. Arlene Costello, President, Advocacy Liaison

dolor amet, consectetur



Dr. Ryan Pontier, Member-at-Large, Advocacy Liaison



Dr. Andrea Lypka, Secretary, Social Media Manager

Carla Huck, MA, M Ed, Member-at-Large, Webmaster



# Learning Goals

- Advocate for policies that support English Learners and the field of English language education.
- Learn from trained SITESOL advocacy experts about current federal, state, and local policies and issues.
- Discuss specific policy and legislation that affect ELs' education as well as EL teachers in Florida.
- Recognize effective ways of advocacy for policy change: letters, phone calls or testify in meetings.
- Make a difference. Relay powerful messages to your Florida legislative members.

# Anticipated Outcomes

- ✓ \*Come away empowered and inspired to advocate for education issues relevant to your own particular context.
- ✓ \*Conceive an advocacy plan to take action in your own circle of influence.
- ✓ \*Continue to network and build relationships.

# SSTESOL Advocacy Education Series, Part 2 AGENDA



Welcome back, Types of advocacy, Guest speakers

dolor amet, consectetur



Delving into Advocacy: Facts and simulations  
Congressional delegation meetings, Town Halls and  
Letter to a newspaper editor



What's next? Breakout rooms, Hands-on activities,  
Sharing and Reflections

Wrap Up and Feedback Form

# Community Agreements

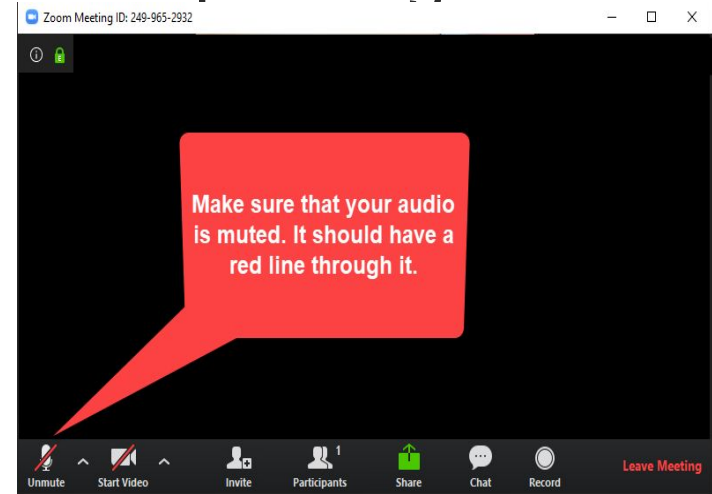
L – Listen and stay on MUTE when not speaking

E – Early

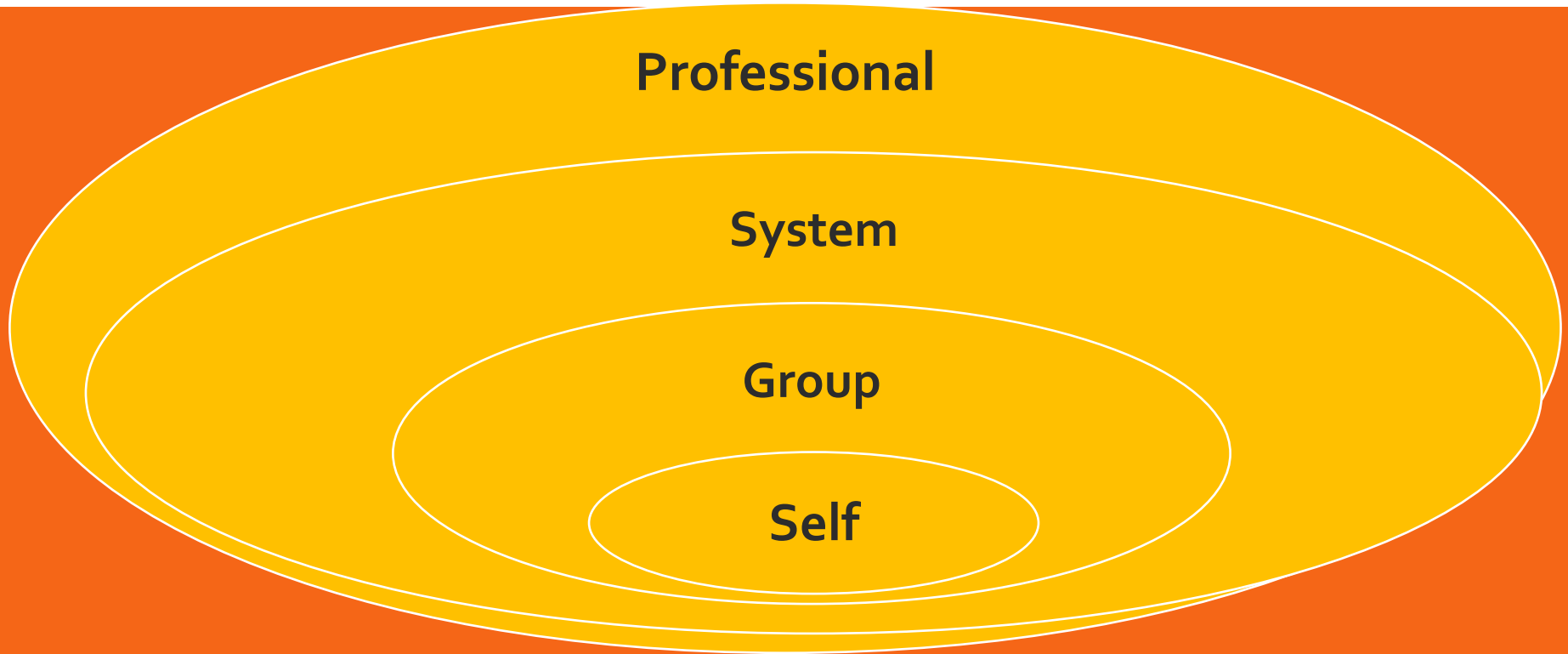
A – Attentive

R – Respectful – raise your hand

N – No typing in the background



# Types of Advocacy





# SSTESOL welcomes Advocacy Education Training Guest Speakers: FL Senator Annette Taddeo and FL Representative Susan Valdes



FL Senator Annette Taddeo



Florida Representative Susan  
Valdes

# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

## Greeting

Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair, honorable members of the Delegation, good morning, and thank you for providing this opportunity to give input. I am Ryan Pontier, and I am with the League of United Latin American Citizens in Florida.

# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

## Acknowledgements/thank you

We first would like to thank last year's sponsors of the Native Language Assessment bill: then-Representative (and now Senator) Ana María Rodríguez, Representative Vance Aloupis, and Senator Annette Taddeo.

# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

Any alignment with other organizations (especially those of interest to Delegation)

This year, we find ourselves aligned with various other organizations in our legislative requests. These organizations include Florida PTA, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Sunshine State TESOL, and Florida NAACP.

# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

## The ask(s)

First, as before, we are deeply concerned about the state receiving bad data on state assessments when students cannot yet show everything they know and can do in English. We continue to ask for *native language assessment*, which is a requirement of the Every Student Succeeds Act and aligned with one of MDCPS's legislative priorities (GED in Haitian Creole). This bill would cover standardized assessments, End of Course, GED, Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener, and others. It would start with Spanish and Haitian Creole and phase in other languages represented in Florida.

# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

## The ask(s)

Second, we request a *state advisory council for English learners* comprised of parents, practitioners, experts, policy makers, and other stakeholders. Their knowledge will help guide decision making in the Department of Education and with future legislation.

# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

## The ask(s)

Finally, for today, we ask that you direct the Florida Department of Education to *remove the requirement for in-person* English proficiency testing for English learners, starting in January. Requiring them to be physically on campus is likely to cause undue and inequitable harm to English learners, many of whom are students of color.

# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

## Contact information

If you have any questions, I can be contacted at the phone number or email in my background.

[rwpontier@gmail.com](mailto:rwpontier@gmail.com)

786-520-6566





# Addressing Local Legislators at Legislative Delegation Meetings

Thank you

Thank you for your time, and may you and your families experience a safe and healthy holiday season, new year, and legislative session.

# Town Hall Meetings: Held by local and community officials to hear citizens' views on issues pertaining to the community or state

Members of the public present their ideas, express their opinions, or ask questions for elected officials to answer.



They bring people together to create a sense of community where officials hear ideas they can't hear anywhere else.

Address to the Escambia County School Board Town Hall Meeting. January 9, 2020

Good evening, School Board Panel members,

My name is Dr. Arlene Costello, President of Emerald Coast Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ECTESOL), a Chapter of the Sunshine State TESOL. I represent both organizations. Both organizations are leading and trusted sources of information in English language teaching for English learners in the state of Florida.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you tonight regarding the most critical issues that are crucial in English language learning of ELs which the new Superintendent will need to understand and embrace.

1. Diversity, inclusion, and multicultural education that impact the teaching and learning environment of ELs.
2. Representation of the Emerald Coast TESOL during the interview process of the applicants for the Superintendent of Schools.
3. The addition of ECTESOL as your professional resource when it comes to English language teaching for English learners K12 and beyond.
4. Further, that these concepts be included in the Escambia County Schools vision, mission and strategic plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you. I am looking forward to hearing from you regarding our request.

Sincerely, Dr. Arlene Costello, President, Emerald Coast TESOL, Sunshine State TESOL

# Writing a letter to a newspaper editor/policy maker/administrator/superintendent

Effective  
advocacy  
tool

Reach far  
greater  
audience

Create  
widespread  
support or  
opposition

Make a  
difference

# How to write a letter to the editor/blog to get the response you expect

1. Follow the paper's directions.
2. Share your expertise.
3. Mention the name of the legislator you are trying to influence.
4. Compose the letter in your own words and way.  
<https://esolflorida.org/blog/f/exploring-uses-of-native-language-as-assessment-for-english-learners>
5. Debate, agree, advocate and make a call to action.
6. Sign your letter and include your contact information.
7. Suggested phrases: I strongly disagree with, I am deeply bothered by, I was disappointed...

LINK:

<https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/page-1075506>

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Women must vote

On Aug. 18, we celebrated the 100th year of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. There is a sense of urgency in this celebration. We must preserve our right to vote because it is being endangered by threats being employed by this administration to make it difficult to vote-by-mail, such as cutting funds for the USPS and more.

This is the call to action: women, vote! Collectively, we have the power to confront, address and overcome these challenges. Decide how you are going to vote: vote early, by mail or in person.

Please remember:

• Voting in person? Vote early.

• Voting by mail?

**Option 1:** Vote, sign, affix a 55 cent stamp, and mail your ballot early.

**Option 2:** Drop off and deposit your signed ballot in the secure ballot box at the early voting polling locations. I deposited my ballot at the Genealogy Library,

Ninth Avenue, last year. It was a pleasant experience.

• On Nov. 3, election day, don't mail your ballot. Take it to the Election Supervisor's Office on Palafox Street.

Luckily, the Escambia County's Supervisor of Elections supports vote-by-mail. Florida women, vote!

— *Dr. Arlene Costello, Pensacola*

ESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 | PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

# OPINION

## NEWS JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD

Lisa Nellesson Savage  
Executive Editor

Andy Marlette  
Editorial Cartoonist

## WHAT YOU THINK

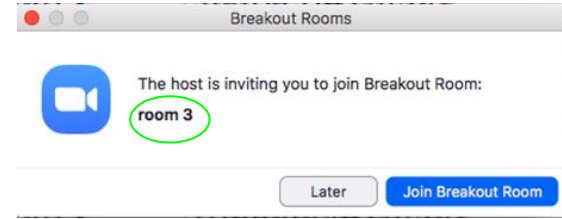
Email your letters to the editor to [opinion@pnj.com](mailto:opinion@pnj.com). They must be 200 words or less and be your original opinion. Do not send or third-party letters. Include your full name, address and phone number for verification. Letters submitted via mail will not

# Breakout Rooms: Taking Action Within Your Own Circle of Influence

- What is your local advocacy issue?
- Who are your allies?
- What is your proposed action?
- Have you identified potential obstacles?
- What resources do you need?



# Group Activity - Instructions



Go to <http://bit.ly/3576vcG>

- Find the document corresponding to your **breakout room number**.
- **Introduce yourselves** and write your names in your action plans.
- Designate a **leader** to share his or her screen and be the **time-keeper**. You will have 30 minutes for this activity.
- Spend time on each member's **action plan**.
- Designate a **volunteer** who could **speak** about the document if your group is called to share.



# Breakout Room Debrief

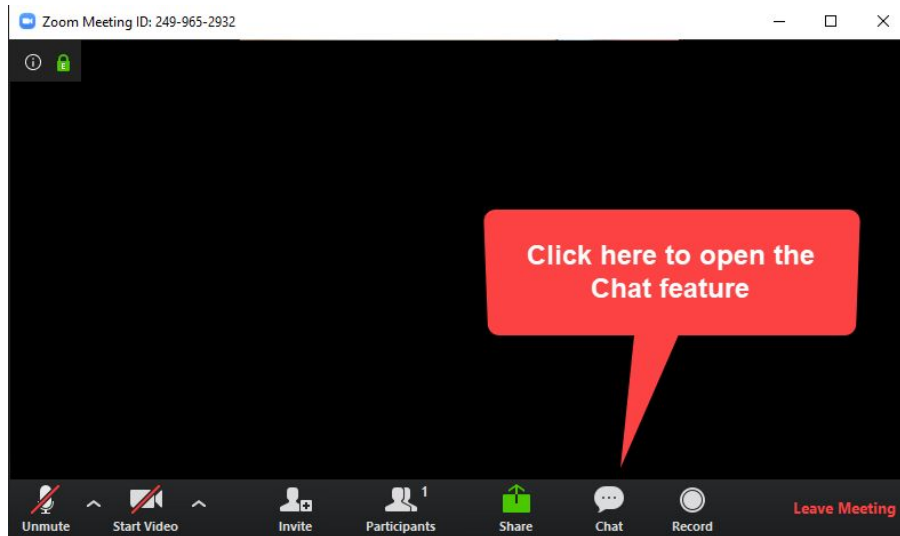
**3-2-1**

Each group's presenter will share:

- 3 Local advocacy issues identified by members**
- 2 Proposed actions**
- 1 Idea for developing relationships with allies**

# Reflections: Share your thoughts on today's training - takeaways, applicability, and anxiousness/concerns

Please add your ideas in the chatbox.



# Reflections: What You Can Do as Educators What Your School/Institution Can Do

Please add your ideas in the chatbox.





# Next Steps

## SSTESOL

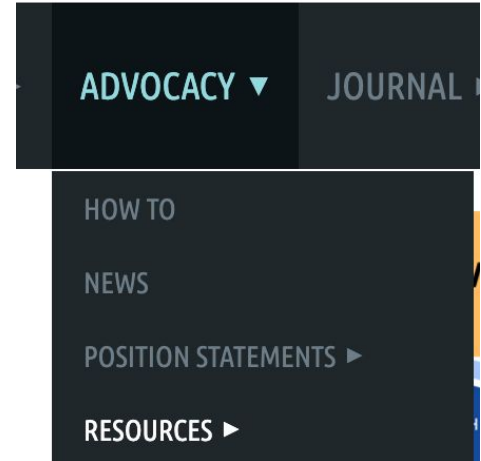
- Mailing List - blank email to [FLSST+subscribe@ESOLFLORIDA.groups.io](mailto:FLSST+subscribe@ESOLFLORIDA.groups.io), put “SST” in the subject line
- [Click here](#) for sstesol.org Advocacy section of web site
- Attend Policy and Advocacy Education Series Training
- Newsletter
  - If you're a member, you already get it :)
  - If you're not a member, become a member by [clicking here!](#)

## TESOL Advocacy Action Center

- [Click here for campaigns](#)

## Find your representatives

- Find a great list [here!](#)
- Check at [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov) and [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)





# Survey

TAKE THE  
SURVEY

Please include your personal email address  
when completing the survey.

<https://forms.gle/BBSgtdHs8W51Kthe9>



# Contact Information



[sstesol@gmail.com](mailto:sstesol@gmail.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/sstesol.florida>



<https://twitter.com/SSTESOL>



<https://www.instagram.com/sstesol/>



<https://sunshinestatetesol.wildapricot.org/>



# Wrap Up

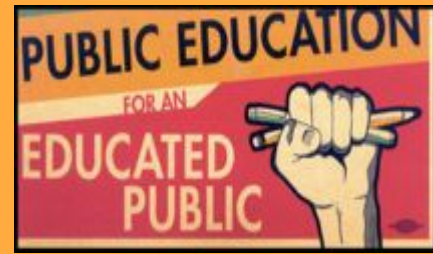
## **WIN WIN**

Win Win is a frame of mind and heart that constantly seeks mutual benefit in all human interactions.





# References



Staehr Fenner, D. (2014). *Advocating for English learners: A guide for educators*. Corwin Press.

TESOL International Association (TESOL). (2018). *The 6 principles for exemplary teaching of English learners*. Author.