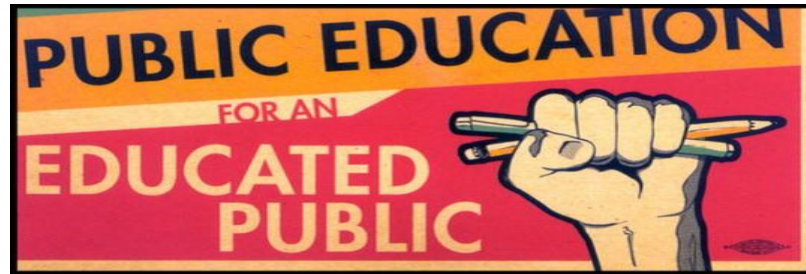




# ADVANCING ADVOCACY: A SITESOL OF FLORIDA ADVOCACY AND POLICY EDUCATION SERIES©

Part 1

December 12 & 19, 2020, 10:00 – 11:30 AM EST



# SSTESOL Advocacy Team



Dr. Arlene Costello, President, Advocacy Liaison



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

- Examine why engaging in advocacy work is critical
- Discuss specific policy and legislation that affect ELs' education as well as EL teachers in Florida
- Recognize effective ways of advocacy for policy change
- Brainstorm next steps for engaging in advocacy work
- Encourage interest in advocacy work from SSTESOL members and the TESOL community for 2020 and beyond

# 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 1 AGENDA



Introduction, Community Agreements, Purpose,  
Defining Advocacy/Political Engagement



Current Policy Briefs and Education Rules  
How to Advocate for ELs K12 and Beyond



What's next? Breakout rooms and Reflections  
Wrap Up and Feedback Form

# Community Agreements

L – Listen and stay on MUTE when not speaking

E – Early

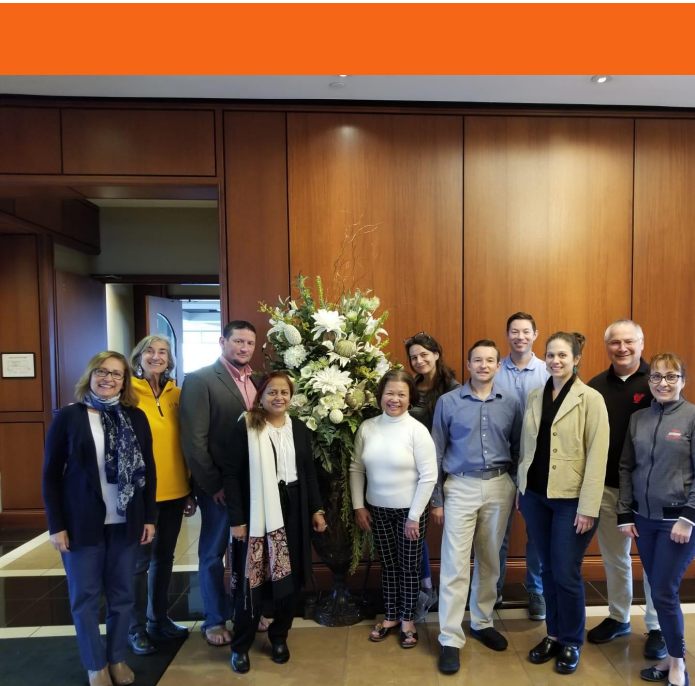
A – Attentive

R – Respectful – raise your hand

N – No typing in the background

# Sunshine State TESOL of Florida

## Your Professional Organization and Advocate



### **VISION**

A trusted leader in Florida for advancing the quality of EL teaching.

### **MISSION**

Provide leadership and advocacy in language policy issues and access to professional learning opportunities, resources, and lively interaction in a professional network at all levels.

### **2020 Strategic Goals and Objectives**

#### **Advocacy**

Create opportunities for leadership growth and development.

#### **Professional learning and engagement**

Provide opportunities to enhance expertise and practice.

#### **Governance**

Strengthen local Chapters and support the establishment of new ones. Expand SATESOL's presence, roles, and influence in the state of Florida and TESOL International.

#### **Communication**

Improve communication with members.

# Why We Engage in Advocacy

SSTESOL believes...

- in an equitable education for all English Learners.
- that ELs are multilingual learners who experience the world in ways that are different from monolinguals.
- that ELs need specialized support to address their linguistic and cultural differences as they develop multilingually.
- that a key to student achievement is quality teaching.

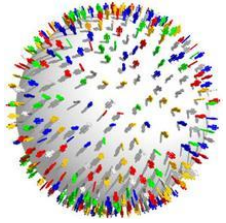


# Defining Advocacy



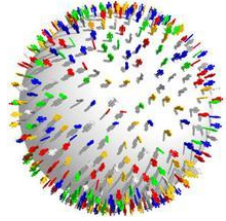
Voting. Contributing money to a candidate or political group. Working or volunteering for a campaign. Attending a campaign event or rally. Contacting an elected official.

Working for student's equitable and excellent education by taking appropriate actions on their behalf. Providing a voice for those students – and their families – who have not developed their own strong voice in education.



# Background

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT



Relative Power Theory – Wealthier people can drown out the voices of poorer people.

Conflict Theory – Higher levels of inequality spurs debates and political mobilization.

Resource Theory – Level of political engagement dependent on individual's income.

# Advocacy in Your Circle of Influence: Need, a Shared Responsibility, and Collaboration



## Be Mindful

- \*Learn how to become advocates for students, families and education/educators.
- \*Be prepared to thoughtfully insert oneself in policy discussions and thoughtful contributions.
- \*Practice conversations concerning education issues.
- \*Engage in professional development in leadership training to support one's new role.

# Best Practices in Advocacy

## 6 Steps to Advocacy

1. Isolate the issue.
2. Identify your allies.
3. Be clear on the rights of students.
4. Organize and educate others.
5. Identify your outlets for change.
6. ACT

# Federal Policy

Bilingual Education Act (1968)

Lau v. Nichols / Equal Educational Opportunities Act (1974)

Castañeda v. Pickard (1981)

Plyler v. Doe (1982)



# Florida Policy

## Consent Decree

- Florida's framework for compliance with federal & state laws and legislation regarding EL education
- Ensures compliance with Title VI (ESEA), Lau v. Nichols, EEOA, Castaneda v. Pickard, Plyler v. Doe, ADA, etc.
- Includes requirements for:
  - I. Identification & assessment
  - II. Equal access to appropriate programming
  - III. Equal access to appropriate categorical programs
  - IV. Personnel
  - V. Program monitoring
  - VI. Outcome measures

# Policy Briefs

Native Language Assessment

Reinstitution of Certification in Bilingual Education

State Advisory Council for English Learners

ACCESS Testing in Spring 2021



# Forms of Advocacy

Letter writing

Meetings (in-person)

Resolutions

Coalition building

Position Statements

Remote Conference  
Call

Email

Phone call

# Know Your Elected Officials and Education Leaders



# Know Your Elected Officials and Education Leaders

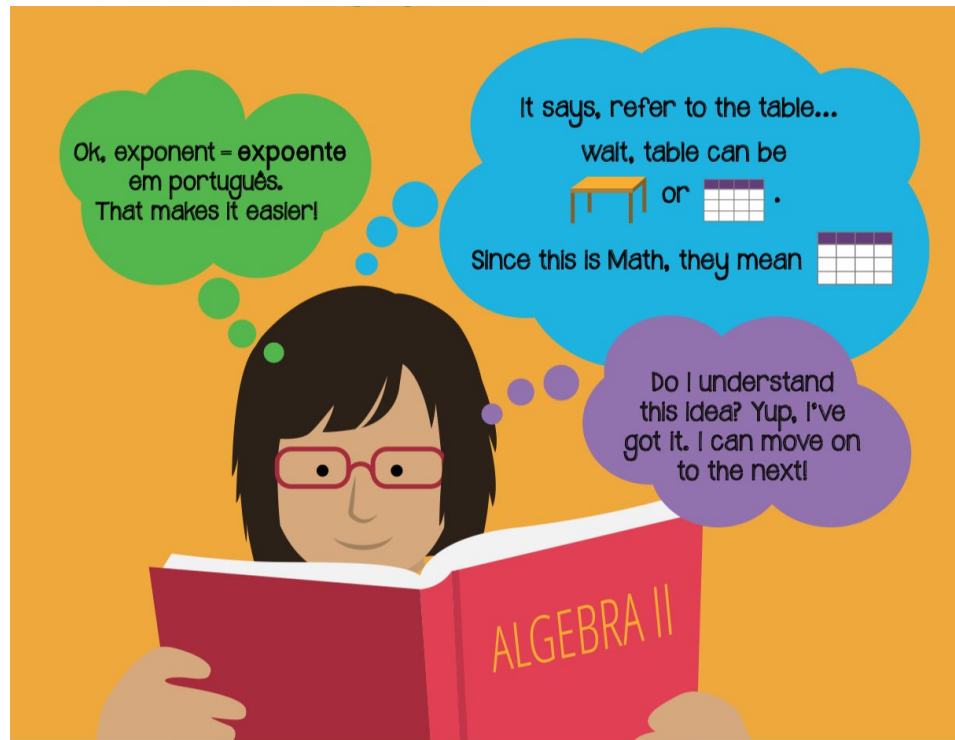
## State

- Governor = Ron DeSantis
- Commissioner of Education = Richard Corcoran
- House of Representatives  
([www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov))
- Senate ([www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov))
- ResistBot ([resist.bot](http://resist.bot))

# Know Your Elected Officials and Education Leaders

- Secretary of Education (Dec. 2020) = Betsy DeVos
- Undersecretary of Education for Office of English Language Acquisition
- U.S. House of Representatives ([www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov))
- U.S. Senate ([www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov))
  - Senator Marco Rubio  
(<https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>)
  - Senator Rick Scott ([https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact\\_rick](https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick))
- [TESOL Advocacy Action Center](#)

# How to Advocate for Your K-12 Multilingual Learners



[WIDA's Illustrated Guiding Principles of Language Development](#)

# RESEARCH

**Learn all that you can about the laws and policies concerning ELs in your state and district.**

Educators need to understand these important considerations:

- What is the EL population in my school? Proficiency levels, native languages, literacy levels in home language, SLIFE, DEUSS dates?
- How are ELs identified, monitored, exited, and reclassified?
- What state tests are ELs required to take, and what accommodations are available?
- What are graduation requirements and what is our school and district EL graduation rate?

# ACCESS

## **Attend meetings that involve ELs to ensure clear communication and access to programs and opportunities.**

- Use your knowledge to be a voice for students during IEP, MTSS, Gifted, and EL Committee meetings and share these rights with families.
- Make sure ELs have equal access to honors and A.P. courses, internships, honor societies, athletic teams, and college preparation programs.
- Parent outreach is critical. Show others how to use Talking Points, Remind, or Microsoft and Google translation apps.
- Plan meetings for parents and invite community partners to assist families with other needs including immigration attorneys, healthcare, or adult ESL classes.

# ACADEMICS

**Assist teachers with best practices and strategies to support ELs and promote an asset-based philosophy about multilingual learners.**

- English language learners spend most of their day in classrooms with mainstream teachers who may have varying degrees of ESOL preparation or endorsement.
- Ongoing professional development on strategies that support language and content acquisition will help teachers understand how to leverage language to maximize academic growth.
- Ask your administrator if you can present at a faculty meeting or join other PLCs in your building; select research-based strategies that are powerful for all students but essential for ELs.



# NETWORK

**Seek professional learning opportunities within and outside your district.**

- WIDA, SIOP, Seidlitz, state and local TESOL affiliates, and ASCD offer opportunities for excellent PD. Some of their virtual offerings are free at this time.
- Join the conversation online with colleagues in the field:

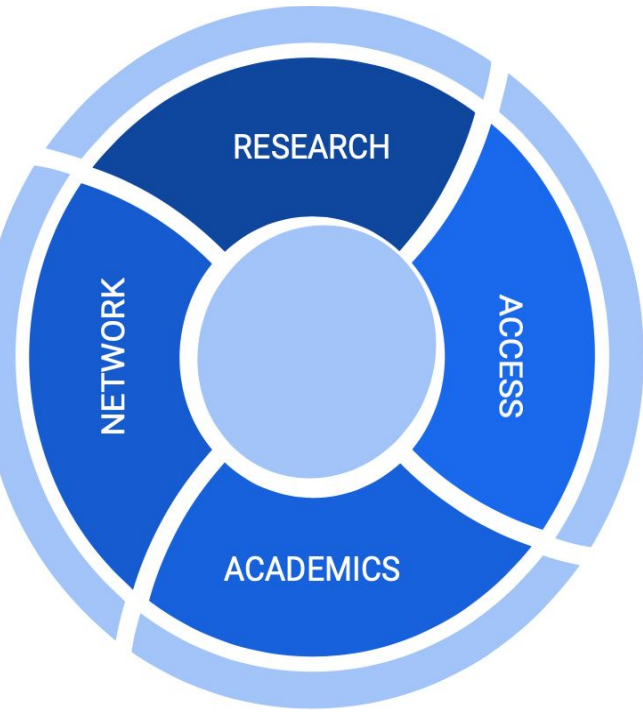
[VirtuEL](#) (a free, online conference for teachers of English language learners)

Podcasts ([Highest Aspirations](#) by Ellevation or [Boosting Achievement](#) with Carol Salva)

Twitter (EL leaders to follow: [@LarryFerlazzo](#), [@TanELLclassroom](#), [@emilyfranESL](#), [@MsSalvac](#), [@Toppel\\_ELD](#))

Online Book Studies like [#ELLChat\\_BkClub](#)

# How to Advocate for ELs' Success Beyond K-12



[handout](#)

- Support ELs as they develop their plans beyond high school.
- Advocate for ELs' placement in courses that will lead to their graduation.
- Collaborate to ensure smooth transition to college and career.
- Advocate for ELs' access to college.

## Breakout Rooms:

Where do we go from here? What's next?

Involvement: Political (personal) and Advocacy

What can I do as an individual?

What can I do for my school/institution?

What can I do for my district?

What can I do for my community?

How can I collaborate with other non-school based communities?

Establish relationships with your elected officials! They work for you!!!

# Breakout Room Debrief



## ***One minute summaries:***

Each group's presenter will share **2** powerful ideas that were discussed in the session.

# Reflections and Tasks for January 9, 2021

1. Bring one pressing issue from your local and state.
2. Identify your allies.
3. Start/continue to build relationship with your allies.

# Next Steps

## SSTESOL Mailing List

- Email: send a blank email to [FLSST+subscribe@ESOLFLORIDA.groups.io](mailto:FLSST+subscribe@ESOLFLORIDA.groups.io), put “SST” in the subject line

## SSTESOL Newsletter

- If you're a member, you already get it :)
- If you're not a member, become a member by [clicking here!](#)

## Find your representatives

- You can find a great list [here!](#)
- You can also check at [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov) and [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

## SSTESOL Policy and Advocacy Education Series

# Wrap Up

## **WIN WIN**

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

Join us on Saturday, January 9 at 10:00am EST for more information on the issues we are supporting, and *how to help!* We will also explore how to map an advocacy plan for a pressing education issue in your own context.

# Survey



TAKE THE  
SURVEY

<https://forms.gle/BBSgtdHs8W51Kthe9>



# Contact Information



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



<https://twitter.com/SSTESOL>



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



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





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

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<https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/resource/illustrated-guiding-principles.pdf>