

the Sillerman Center

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILANTHROPY

ADULT LITERACY FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS: A Guide to High Impact Investments



Approximately 1.1 million adult English Language Learners (ELLs) are enrolled in education programs and nearly half are in literacy or beginning level ESL. Of those enrolled in beginning level literacy, less than 40% complete the basic level. Literacy specific programs with capable staff, relatable curriculum, and evaluation are needed to help students succeed in learning the English language.

It is important that an effective program receives input from the following stakeholders:

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- LOCAL EMPLOYERS
- LIBRARIES
- HUMAN AND HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS
- SCHOOLS
- LABOR UNIONS
- COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES
- FAITH COMMUNITY
- REPS FROM TARGET POPULATION
- LAW ENFORCEMENT

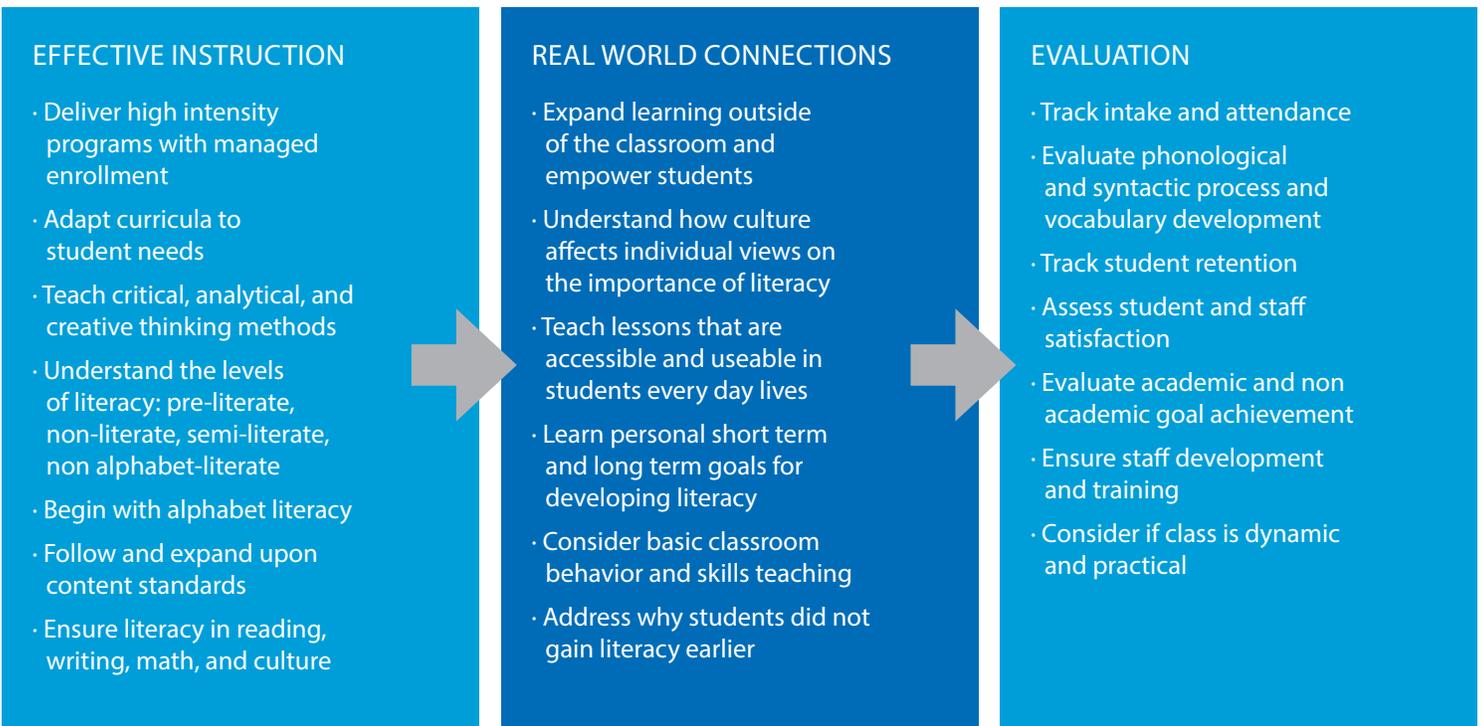
Adult ELL Literacy will lead to better or improved:



What is a ELL Adult Literacy Program?

- UNDERSTANDS cultural implications of literacy and demographics of student population
- RECOGNIZES that the need to move beyond a “one size fits all” approach
- BUILDS literacy based on students’ goals and needs
- PROVIDES constant staff development and training opportunities
- EVALUATES students’ individual short term and long term goal achievement

High Performing Programs Should Include:



While not all programs will successfully address each of these areas, high performing programs with appropriate funding should aim to focus on as many as possible. When programs are successful, adult ELL literacy students will gain the language skills required to lead a fulfilling life for themselves and their families.

For more information please visit:

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