

Attaining Core Content for English Language Learners (ACCELL)

The Need

States' adoption of college- and career-ready standards presents a unique opportunity as well as a new challenge for English learners who are learning English at the same time they are learning course content in English.

ACCELL

Attaining Core Content for English Language Learners (ACCELL) is American Institutes for Research's (AIR's) research-based approach for supporting teachers with English learners in their classrooms. ACCELL methods, resources, and tools help teachers across the content areas scaffold core content for English learners. ACCELL was developed from the ground up to align with college- and career-ready standards.

Our Approach

At the Center for English Language Learners at AIR, we work closely with districts and schools to provide customized technical assistance that prepares instructional staff to meet the demands of high academic standards for English learners, using the process summarized in the figure below.

Partnership

We take time to learn about a client's needs and develop a customized support plan.

Implementation

We provide support to enhance curriculum and instruction and track progress.

Sustainability

We work with districts to develop plans for sustaining the work.

More information about the Center for English Language Learners
at AIR can be found on our website:

www.air.org/Englishlearners

Contact us today to learn more about how we can bring ACCELL to your district or school:

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Or send us an e-mail: ELLcenter@air.org

More About the ACCELL Model

To support English learners' content learning, teachers learn to build students' background knowledge and foundational skills, support their vocabulary acquisition, and develop their comprehension through close reading. To support narrative and informational writing, teachers learn to model and use graphic organizers aligned to each genre. To develop listening and speaking skills, teachers learn to support academic conversations. To develop language skills, teachers learn to use functional analysis and language mini-lessons.

More About the ACCELL Tools

- *Word analyzer*: This tool displays words in text that are among the 4,000 most frequent words in English texts for grades K–12.
- *Lesson preparation template and overview*: These documents provide a template for teachers and curriculum developers to help them develop lessons that are aligned with college- and career-ready standards and consistent with the ACCELL model.
- *Guide to making complex text comprehensible for English learners*: This tool describes text complexity at the lexical, sentence, and discourse levels, with concrete information and examples for making complex text comprehensible for English learners.
- *Standards-aligned question stems*: This tool provides text-dependent question stems and example questions aligned with challenging state reading standards for grades 2–12. Its purpose is to help teachers create text-dependent questions that support students in meeting grade-level content standards in English language arts.
- *Functional grammar analysis guide*: This tool provides instruction and examples for functional grammar analysis of phrases and sentences—a method to help English learners understand complex syntax.
- *Language mini-lessons*: This tool provides teachers with developmentally appropriate standards-aligned grammar and punctuation mini-lessons.
- *Model curriculum*: Model lessons are available for three grade spans.

About AIR

Founded in 1946, AIR applies science to real-world issues. AIR is a national leader in teaching and learning improvement, providing the research, assessment, evaluation, and technical assistance to ensure that all students—particularly those facing historical disadvantages—have access to a high-quality, effective education.

About the Center for English Language Learners at AIR

The Center for English Language Learners at AIR is committed to reducing the achievement gap and improving outcomes for English learners by connecting rigorous research to policy and practice. In addition to professional development based on the ACCELL model, Center staff conduct research related to teaching and learning; perform policy studies; provide technical assistance to states and districts to enhance English language learning; and support schools in implementing COLLTS, an early learning curriculum developed by Center staff to cultivate oral language and literacy for young learners.