



## ***What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?***

What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take:  
Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today

### **Open Space Report: Los Angeles**

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following:

**1. Names of group members**

Alejandra Sotomayor, AABE; Maria Jiron-Cano, AABE; Anastasia Amabisca, AABE; Eufemia Amabisca, AABE; Maria S. Quezada, Daniel Arellano, Melanie McGrath, Sonia Flores, Carla Gutierrez, Maggie Nesbitt, Maria McCray, Rosalva Bermudez-Ballin, Claudia Coughran, Irella Perez Martinez, Nancy Monica Navarro, Maria E. Sanchez, Armando Huipe, Regina Renaldo, Marcia Vargas, Barbara Flores

**2. Issue/Topic/Activity**

**SOS: Arizona is Sinking--A discussion about the current state of affairs in Arizona regarding policy and practices that are affecting English Learners, and ideas for strategizing and mobilizing, particularly in light of similar movements in other states such as Alabama.**

**3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps**

Overview of current and pending legislation was provided. Immigration and education issues are so tightly connected that teachers' hands are tied and communities are afraid to speak up and demand their rights. These issues have essentially fractured the community, making it difficult to mobilize parents and teachers out of fear. Further, the educational program currently in place for English Learners does not meet their needs and prevents them from gaining access to core content while also segregating them from the school population. Despite positive press about the SEI program, there is much doubt as to its actual success. Feedback from teachers in the field indicates that good teachers with experience in English Learner education and second language acquisition are being targeted and removed from these classrooms. Confounding this is the new legislation targeting teachers with accents.

It is clear that the current situation in Arizona is linked directly to anti-immigrant sentiment and a legacy of racism and prejudice.

Among the recommendations is the need for coalition building between education advocates and other organizations that might not necessarily be “education” in goals. For example, we need to find ways of connecting with community based organizations and faith-based organizations, as well as framing the educational challenges as “human rights” violations rather than just “education issues” so that the community at large understands the relationship between these issues.

Another idea proposed was the cultivation and education of young voters. Ultimately, what needs to happen is the repeal of these laws and programs.

**4. Available Resources**

CABE and Californians Together have offered to advise AABE on its coalition-building and strategizing. Their work is an example of non-traditional coalition-building on singular issues to improve the state of education for California beyond Proposition 227.

**5. Follow-up requests**

AABE members will be following up with members of CABE and CT to learn more about how they have worked together. We will also be working with people from San Bernadino county who will help spread the word among young scholars to inform them of these issues so that change can happen.

**6. Please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!**