



Conversation for English Learners in the 21st 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: Charlotte

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following. When you're finished, please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!

1. Names of group members

Zulma L. Velasco	Crystae Freids	Ann Neal
Holly Shellenberger	Joan Friedenberg	Karen Solis
Jenny Grabiec	Cori Alston	Antony Dula
Maria Longa	Charmaine Marshall	Stephanie Vargas
Aristela Torres	Elsa Armijos	Marshall Foster
Charlotte "Nadja" Trez	Cesi Salazar	
Maria M. Torres		

2. Issue/Topic/Activity

Questions related to services related to equity for Ells by the participants.

3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps

This was a session where participants had the opportunity to learn about the Office of Civil Rights and ask questions. Some of the questions, comments of the participants were related to communication to parents, bullying, sexual harassment, LEP Identification, Language survey and how to file a complaint to the OCR.

4. Available Resources

Gabriel Sandoval provided a great wealth of information on the services and mission of the Office of Civil Rights. He provided participants with information on the website www.ed.gov/ocr and his e-mail as a contact Gabriel.sandoval@ed.gov. Documents were provided as well: How to file a discrimination complaint with the OCR, a Dear Colleague Letter, and a Fact Sheet, on information on the rights of all children to enroll in school.

5. Follow-up requests

The following are the requests, concern and ideas provided by the participants during this session. Common concerns: Linguist services for ELLS'

Home language survey:

- What is the follow up for families that responded English only on the Home Language Survey?
- Does the district have to request permission for testing? What are the next steps for families who deny testing?
- Opting out from ESL programs.
- Proof of residence for enrollment purposes. Participant would like more fact patterns on enrollment documents requirements.
- Parental access to schools. Documentation (social security) is required for parents to have lunch or come to the classroom to visit. Is there any information on how to address this issue without risking students' security at schools?

- Communication to parents in different languages is crucial for their participation in school. However, translation is not enough. Understanding and ensuring parents understand policies and school guidance in a friendly accessible language.