

WHAT IS ACCESSIBILITY TO CORE CURRICULUM THROUGH CONTENT INSTRUCTION FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS?

Rigorous content instruction aligned to Illinois Learning Standards must be provided to ALL students, including English learners. The Standards focus on critical thinking, problem solving, and analytic skills. The Illinois Learning Standards for Content have established the standards that students are expected to master, however, how educators teach the standards may take on different pathways depending on the students' needs. Differentiation is the key to making the content comprehensible and accessible to all students as it gives students the tools they need so that they can handle whatever comes their way (Wormeli, 2006).

For English learners, access to core content is either through the home language in TBE programs or through ESL and sheltered instruction in TPI programs. Access to core curriculum for English learners requires intentional and deliberate decisions about instructional approaches/strategies, appropriate selection of materials, resources and assessment, aligning content learning with language learning. The collaboration between bilingual education/ESL teachers and general education teachers is essential to optimize students' educational attainment.