



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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Salam A. Noor, Ph.D.

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dear Colleague,

Hello and good afternoon. I hope this email finds you well. I know this is a busy time of year, but I would like to let you know about an exciting funding opportunity happening throughout our state for English learners. As you may already know, HB 3499 passed in 2015, appropriating 12.5 million dollars every biennium to support outcomes for English learners. The majority of these funds are being used to support 40 districts who have been identified as either “Transformation” or “Target” districts. In addition to the support these 40 districts are already receiving, we have the opportunity to use a small percentage of the funds to support our students through the hiring of five TOSAs, which will be housed at five of our ESDs throughout the state. Because funding is limited, we only have the capacity to hire five TOSAs.

Our primary goal is to support those districts with less than 20 ELs and a few other districts whose data has shown they are in need of extra support. If you are one of these districts, you will be contacted in July/August about what that support will look like. It will be different for every district and will be dependent on the district’s specific needs. District leadership will be a part of every step in the process of support. Additionally, Transformation and Target districts may also benefit from this support in the form of possible professional development opportunities.

We collaborated with the community and other offices throughout the department in the careful selection of which five ESDs would receive a TOSA. The ESDs were selected based on a number of criteria. First, we wanted to make sure there was geographic representation and they weren’t placed all in the same area of the state. We also looked at number of districts with less than 20 ELs, number of total EL students throughout the ESD, and number of districts whose data shows a high level of needed support. Because this is an ongoing grant and project, there is a possibility that ESDs who have not been selected to house a TOSA this biennium, will have an opportunity to do so in the future. Currently, the five ESDs who will be receiving a TOSA are Clackamas, Willamette, South Coast, InterMountain, and Malheur.

Lastly, in an attempt to reach out to all districts with less than 20 ELs and other districts in need of supports throughout the state, we have been very purposefully planning how these five TOSAs can additionally provide technical assistance to districts outside of these five ESDs. If you are a district or an ESD who serves districts with less than 20 ELs or a district who will receive support through this program, you can expect communication on how one of these five TOSAs can best work with your district.

Please feel free to reach out if there are any questions or comments about this program. You can also reach out to your local ESD with questions. We are very excited about this unique opportunity to improve outcomes for English learners throughout our state!

Sincerely,

Kelly Slater;

on behalf of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion;

Oregon Department of Education