

# Building Excellence for English Learners

Professional Learning to Improve Outcomes  
for Arizona English Learners

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**Initiative Information for New Teams  
SY 2023-2024**

## Building Excellence for English Learners

WestEd's Quality Teaching for English Learners (QTEL) is pleased to announce a partnership with the Arizona Department of Education to provide professional learning and coaching to Arizona's educators of English Learners. QTEL is currently seeking school and district partners to participate in this work during the 2023/2024 school year, including summer 2024.

*Building Excellence for English Learners* is a systemic and aligned approach to improving outcomes for Arizona's English Learners, and its services encompass vertically aligned professional learning for teachers, instructional coaches, and school leaders.

The professional learning focuses on building a shared understanding of key elements of effective teaching and learning for English Learners and providing immediately applicable instructional practices that can be incorporated into classroom instruction. Key themes include supporting English Learners to engage in high challenge, high support learning opportunities and incorporating daily quality academic interactions.

QTEL is one of Arizona's American Rescue Plan (ARP) School and Community Grantees. As such, all professional learning, materials, facilities, and educator stipends associated with this project will be paid for with state ARP funding with no cost to schools and districts. Participating schools and districts will be asked to ensure the following:

- A year-long commitment for participating educators
- Time for educators to participate in all associated professional learning activities
- Substitutes for participating educators
- Travel to and from professional learning engagements, if needed

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*WestEd's Quality Teaching for English Learners (QTEL) works to provide educators with the tools they need to accelerate language development, academic literacy, and disciplinary knowledge of all students, particularly English Learners. With a focus on promoting long-term academic and professional success, QTEL's pragmatic and classroom-friendly approach to learning is informed by rigorous sociolinguistic research and more than twenty years of experience working with educators across the United States.*

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Registration is now open!

<https://bit.ly/BEEL-Teams-23-24>



## Participant Details

Ideally, schools and/or districts would form a team of educators (e.g., 4–6 teachers, an instructional coach, and a leader) to ensure opportunities for local collaboration.

All participating educators will receive a \$1000/school year stipend upon participation in and completion of each year’s work.

## Teachers

- Teachers who teach English Learners in an integrated or a targeted setting will benefit from this professional learning. Teachers of all grade levels and content areas are welcome, although most lesson examples will focus on the humanities.
- Teacher participants will be expected to implement their learning in their classroom with English Learners.
- Teachers will attend 5 institute days during the 2023/24 school year. Date and location options for this institute are included later in this document. Note that coaches and leaders attend this institute with their teachers.
- Teachers will attend a 4-day summer institute in late May or early June 2024.
- Teachers participating in collaborative coaching cycles facilitated by QTEL will commit to an additional 8 days during the 2023/24 school year. Dates will be planned directly with your facilitator. Teachers participating in collaborative coaching are eligible to receive an additional \$800 stipend per school year.

## Instructional Coaches

- An instructional coach can be anyone who coaches teachers in their role, regardless of title. This may be a coach, a specialist, an administrator, etc.
- Coaches will be expected to support teachers in implementing their learning at their schools.
- Coaches attend the 5-day teacher institute during the 2023/24 school year as well as the 4-day 2024 summer institute.
- Coaches also attend their own specialized institute, which takes place over 5 days throughout the 2023/24 school year. Date and location options for this institute are included later in this document.
- Coaches participate in QTEL collaborative coaching cycles for an additional 8 days during the 2023/24 school year. Dates will be planned directly with your facilitator. For this additional time commitment, coaches participating in these cycles are eligible to receive an additional \$800 stipend per school year.

## Leaders

- A leader is someone who is committed to improving outcomes for English Learners and will champion this work at the school or district.
- The leader will guide and support the school/district team through this process with the intention of strengthening the quality of English Learner policy, practices, and programs.
- Likely roles for this team member are school or district administrator, coordinator, or director.
- Leaders attend the 5-day teacher institute during the 2023/24 school year (dates follow).
- Leaders also attend their own specialized institute, taking place on four additional dates during the 2023/24 school year.

The pages that follow contain a more detailed overview of the professional learning provided at each level of the system.

## Professional Learning Overview

Teacher Professional Learning	
School Year 2023/2024	Summer 2024
<p>Teachers engage in five full days of professional learning through the QTEL <i>Building the Base</i> institute, during which they learn deeply about theories of learning and language development and understand how these theoretical ideas are utilized and integrated in classroom practice. The institute is designed around rigorous exemplars of practice that provide opportunities for educators to experience high challenge, high support pedagogy as well as apply their learning through analysis and reflection.</p> <hr/> <p>Teachers work closely with a QTEL coach and/or their school/district coach to participate in collaborative coaching cycles designed to enhance the implementation of the pedagogical shifts learned in <i>Building the Base</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day One: Small groups engage in collaborative lesson planning</li> <li>• Day Two: The same groups implement and observe the lesson and reflect, and collaboratively refine it</li> </ul> <p>Note that, based on availability, participating teams will have the option to engage in collaborative coaching cycles with a QTEL facilitator and/or with their own site/district coach.</p>	<p>Teachers participate in a 4-day intensive summer institute in late May/early June 2024 that focuses more acutely on enhancing, strengthening, and amplifying instruction. They further develop their expertise around designing high-quality opportunities to learn by reconsidering how to deliberately craft lessons and units of study that invite, support, and challenge students.</p>

Coach Professional Learning	
School Year 2023/2024	Summer 2024
Coaches/specialists participate with teachers in five full-day <i>Building the Base</i> professional learning sessions (described in more detail in the teacher professional learning section above) in order to ensure shared understandings and collective learning with teachers.	Along with teachers, coaches participate in an intensive four-day summer institute that focuses more acutely on enhancing, strengthening, and amplifying instruction.
Coaches/specialists engage in five full-day <i>Coaching for Excellence</i> professional learning sessions to focus on building capacity to support teachers, observe instruction, and provide feedback on the implementation of effective instruction for English Learners.	
<p>Coaches/specialists shadow QTEL facilitators as they engage small groups of teachers in collaborative coaching cycles to support the application of the learning. Each cycle is described in more detail in the teacher support section above.</p> <p>Coaches/specialists begin the work of sustainability as they also lead small group coaching sessions on their campuses.</p> <p>Coaches/specialists meet virtually in a Coaching PLN with their QTEL facilitator and their small collaborative coaching group in order to deepen their coaching capacity through discussion of problems of practice and progress in their on-site coaching work.</p>	

Leader Professional Learning	
School Year 2023-2024	Summer 2024
Leaders participate with teachers in five full day <i>Building the Base</i> professional learning sessions (described in more detail in the teacher support section above) in order to ensure shared understandings and collective learning with teachers.	Leaders are not required to attend the summer institute but are encouraged to do so if they are able.
Leaders will come together for four full day <i>Leading for Excellence</i> professional learning sessions. These sessions are focused on building shared understandings of the pedagogical shifts necessary for change, the support teachers need to make these shifts, and methods for monitoring implementation and gauging impact.	

## Professional Learning Dates

Phoenix Area			
School Year 2023/2024			Summer 2024
Building the Base (Teachers, Coaches, and Leaders attend)	Coaching for Excellence- Coaches Institute (Coaches attend)	Leading for Excellence- Leaders Institute (Leaders attend)	Summer Institute (Teachers and Coaches attend/ Leaders are welcome)
<p><b>Elementary Option 1:</b> 8/29/23, 8/30/23, 11/6/23, 11/7/23, 1/18/24</p> <p><b>Elementary Option 2:</b> 8/31/23, 9/1/23, 11/8/23, 11/9/23, 1/19/24</p> <p><b>Elementary Option 3:</b> 8/28/23, 8/29/23, 9/28/23, 9/29/23, 11/30/23</p> <p><b>Elementary Option 4:</b> 8/28/23, 8/29/23, 11/14/23, 11/15/23, 1/9/24</p>	<p>9/20/23, 9/21/23, 12/7/23, 4/16/24, 4/17/24</p>	<p>9/27/23, 12/4/23, 1/17/24, 4/1/24</p>	<p>Dates are TBD: Late May/ Early June</p>
<p><b>Secondary Option 1:</b> 9/6/23, 9/7/23, 11/15/23, 11/16/23, 1/24/24</p> <p><b>Secondary Option 2:</b> 8/28/23, 8/29/23, 11/6/23, 11/7/23, 3/4/24</p>			



Tucson Area			
School Year 2023/2024			Summer 2024
Building the Base (Teachers, Coaches, and Leaders attend)	Coaching for Excellence- Coaches Institute (Coaches attend)	Leading for Excellence- Leaders Institute (Leaders attend)	Summer Institute (Teachers and Coaches attend/ Leaders are welcome)
<p><b>Elementary Option 1:</b> 9/20/23, 9/21/23, 11/7/23, 11/8/23, 1/24/24</p> <p><b>Elementary Option 2:</b> 9/11/23, 9/12/23, 11/13/23, 11/14/23, 2/26/24</p> <hr/> <p><b>Secondary Option 1:</b> 9/12/23, 9/13/23, 11/14/23, 11/15/23, 1/31/24</p> <p><b>Secondary Option 2:</b> 9/14/23, 9/15/23, 11/16/23, 11/17/23, 2/1/24</p>	<p>9/18/23, 9/19/23, 11/28/23, 3/26/24, 3/27/24</p>	<p>9/20/23, 11/29/23, 1/30/24, 3/28/24</p>	<p>Dates are TBD: Late May/ Early June</p>

Yuma Area			
School Year 2023/2024			Summer 2024
Building the Base (Teachers, Coaches, and Leaders attend)	Coaching for Excellence- Coaches Institute (Coaches attend)	Leading for Excellence- Leaders Institute (Leaders attend)	Summer Institute (Teachers and Coaches attend/ Leaders are welcome)
Elementary: 8/31/23, 9/1/23, 11/14/23, 11/15/23, 3/25/24	9/18/23, 9/19/23, 12/8/23, 4/18/24, 4/19/24	9/21/23, 11/30/23, 2/7/24, 4/2/24	Dates are TBD: Late May/ Early June
Secondary: 8/29/23, 8/30/23, 11/8/23, 11/9/23, 2/20/24			

Flagstaff Area			
School Year 2023/2024			Summer 2024
Building the Base (Teachers, Coaches, and Leaders attend)	Coaching for Excellence- Coaches Institute (Coaches attend)	Leading for Excellence- Leaders Institute (Leaders attend)	Summer Institute (Teachers and Coaches attend/ Leaders are welcome)
Elementary: 8/30/23, 8/31/23, 11/7/23, 11/8/23, 2/6/23	9/18/23, 9/19/23, 12/7/23, 3/27/24, 3/28/24	9/14/23, 12/8/23, 1/23/24, 3/21/24	Dates are TBD: Late May/ Early June
Secondary: 9/6/23, 9/7/23, 11/14/23, 11/15/23, 1/30/24			