Using i-Ready with English Learners

English Learners (ELs) are a diverse group. They represent different cultures, languages, and levels of English proficiency. This is a powerful asset to any classroom, but it can be challenging to support these students well.

There’s a lot that you can do! From building on student strengths to using strategic scaffolds during instruction, there are many best practices that not only support ELs, but can also benefit all students in your classroom.

“When the teacher asks me questions in class, I can answer because I do i-Ready; it gives me the practice and information that I need.” —English Learner, Sarasota School District

Look inside for tips and tools to help support ELs with i-Ready!
Analyze Data with EL Needs in Mind

*i-Ready Diagnostic* and Online Instruction reports provide robust data about individual students’ areas of strength and areas for growth. This will help inform the supports they need.

**Examples:**
- Look for and highlight students’ areas of strength so you can leverage them in instruction.
- Use individual and small group instruction to address students’ areas for growth while continuing to build on strengths and grade-level content knowledge.
- When applicable, pay attention to Foundational Skills in Reading. Research shows that long-term English Learners need additional instruction in this area.

**Data Analysis Guide, Monitoring and Responding to Online Instruction**

Set Goals with Your ELs

English Learners should set both language development and content-specific goals for themselves.

**Examples:**
- Involve students in the process and teach them how to track their own data.
- Revisit and update goals regularly so students can recognize their own growth, moving their goals forward as they do so.

**Setting Goals with Students Guidance**

Leverage Online Instruction

*i-Ready* Online Instruction meets students where they are to provide appropriate support. For English Learners, this means that many students will receive direct instruction around foundational literacy skills, such as phonics and word recognition.

**Example:** Continue to build foundational skills and grade-level understanding of core concepts during whole group and small group instruction.

**Data Chat for Online Instruction: Student, Data Trackers**

Implement Best Practices of EL Instruction

Many of the instructional best practices that support English Learners will also benefit the rest of your class. All students, including native English speakers, are academic English Learners and benefit from similar instructional scaffolds.

**Examples:**
- Plan culturally responsive activities and experiences.
- Support academic language development.
- Provide visual supports.
- Allow multiple opportunities for discussion.

**Vocabulary Words List, High-Frequency Words List**

Recognize and Celebrate Growth

Celebrating growth with individual students, as a class, and with families is a powerful way to nurture persistence. Data from *i-Ready* helps motivate students by showing them their progress on content that is at their level.

**Example:** Ask students how they want to be celebrated and let this inform your incentive system.

**Planning for a Student Data Chat, Certificates of Progress, i-Ready Family Center**
Integrate Vocabulary Instruction Purposeful vocabulary instruction and practice in multiple contexts is essential for English Learners. Have students maintain language journals during i-Ready Online Instruction in which they track key terms, phrases, definitions, and strategies for using new words in discussion and writing.

Support Discussion Small group and partner discussions are great opportunities to facilitate conversation so English Learners can hear and practice the English language in authentic ways. Provide sentence frames and sentence starters, plan cooperative activities, and help students organize their thinking with graphic organizers.

Provide Visual Supports English Learners benefit a great deal from visual cues and supports during instruction. Pairing visual aids with written and spoken instruction makes content comprehensible for students who are still acquiring English. Consider incorporating photos, films, cartoons, and pictures to help illustrate meaning.

Find More Tips and Get Inspired
Find even more tips, tools, and resources to help implement i-Ready with English Learners at i-ReadyCentral.com/EnglishLearners
# Supporting English Learners Action Plan

Use the chart below to create your action plan for supporting English Learners with i-Ready.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tips</th>
<th>Suggested Next Steps</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</table>
| **Analyze Data with EL Needs in Mind** | - Analyze data for areas of strength that you can leverage in instruction.  
- Use data to prioritize next steps in instruction.  
- Review foundational skills in Reading.  
- Other: _____________________ | |
| **Set Goals with Your ELs** | - Set language development and content-specific goals with ELs that focus on growth.  
- Provide sentence starters and frames so students can actively participate in goal-setting and data-tracking activities.  
- Check progress against goals with students using data chats and trackers.  
- Other: _____________________ | |
| **Leverage Online Instruction** | - Ensure students participate in Online Instruction for at least the recommended range of 30–49 minutes per subject each week and maintain more than 70% of lessons passed.  
- Provide guidance for note-taking during Online Instruction.  
- Monitor progress in online lessons and engage students in small group and whole class instruction that builds on what they've learned and what they need.  
- Other: _____________________ | |
| **Implement Best Practices of EL Instruction** | - Leverage students’ background knowledge, experiences, and insights.  
- Integrate strategic scaffolds so students can access rigorous, grade-level content.  
- Incorporate culturally responsive activities and experiences into lessons.  
- Support academic language development.  
- Provide visual supports.  
- Allow multiple opportunities for discussion.  
- Provide sentence frames and starters for discussion and writing activities.  
- Other: _____________________ | |
| **Recognize and Celebrate Growth** | - Have data chats with students.  
- Regularly recognize student progress and help students understand their learning.  
- Share student progress with families.  
- Other: _____________________ | |
| **Other Next Steps:** | | |
Learn How *i-Ready* Supports English Learners

**The Results Are In**

Research based on data from nearly one million students who took the *i-Ready Diagnostic* in the 2017–2018 academic year, of which nearly 87,000 were English Learners, found that students who received *i-Ready Instruction* experienced greater gains than students who did not receive *i-Ready Instruction* across all grades and subjects.

A subgroup analysis of the 87,000 English Learners found a greater impact on learning gains among English Learners receiving *i-Ready Instruction* compared to English Learners not receiving *i-Ready Instruction*.

**Top Ways *i-Ready* Supports English Learners**

- **Generates High-Impact, Easily Accessible Data to Inform Instruction**
  
  Data from the *i-Ready Diagnostic* provides detailed information about each student’s strengths and needs.

- **Promotes Access and Engagement**
  
  *i-Ready* Online Instruction helps English Learners by providing support that each student needs, including foundational reading skills.

- **Helps Motivate Students with Personal Success**
  
  The strategic scaffolds in *i-Ready* allow students to overcome challenge and access the material, while the Student Dashboard helps them track progress and take ownership of their learning.

- **Integrates Strategic Scaffolds and Supports Academic Language Development**
  
  *i-Ready* Online Instruction incorporates instructional practices that support English Learners.
  
  - **Visual scaffolds and multiple representations** help students access the content.
  
  - **Flexible audio** means that passages, directions, questions, and answers can be played aloud as many times as needed, helping English Learners connect printed and spoken language.
  
  - **Explicit and direct instruction** gives students the opportunity to purposefully practice skills while receiving direct and timely feedback.
  
  - **Vocabulary supports** provide word-learning strategies, such as analyzing context and recognizing prefixes, suffixes, and base words.
  
  - **Strategic instructional supports** include language frames for activities, visuals and graphics, models, and guided instruction.
To see how other educators are maximizing their i-Ready experience, follow us on social media!

See What Others Are Saying

Jessica H. Atallah @MrsAtallah13
When I saw how well one of my ELL kids did today on Math iReady I almost teared up! Seeing students find success and being so proud of themselves is worth every stressful day of being a teacher! I can’t wait to see his reading test score tomorrow! #GARRARDshines #ELL #FullHeart

Christy Aliaga @ChristyAliaga
Yesterday we read and answered questions using a historical article. This morning one of my ELs told me he liked the article so much that he went home and read more about the topic and has a science experiment to show the class today! 😍😍 Can you say #DOK4! #ELs_can

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