



Capital District RBE-RN at Questar III BULLETIN

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the **Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBE-RN)** is staffed and prepared to assist districts in raising the academic achievement of Limited English Proficient/English Language Learners (LEP/ELLs).

The New York State Education Department awarded Questar III a contract to operate the RBE-RN across eight BOCES regions in northeastern New York State. The RBE-RN supports all educators as they prepare to meet current and future NYSED initiatives, with particular emphasis on supporting the Regents Reform agenda and meeting the needs of Limited English Proficient/ English Language Learners (LEP/ELL).

The RBE-RN staff utilizes a district-embedded approach, with the goal of working with educators on site in order to help improve outcomes for LEP/ELLs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for your district needs pertaining to LEP/ELLs.

We look forward to collaborating with you in the important endeavor of advancing the academic achievement of LEP/ELLs throughout the region.

Sincerely,
Gladys I. Cruz, PhD., Administrator
Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network
Questar III

Announcements

New identification test for English Language Learners to begin during the 2013-14 school year

Dear Educators,

We wish to bring your attention to important information from the New York State Education Department regarding their announcement about a replacement assessment for the LAB-R.

The New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) will be effective on February 1, 2014 and will be the assessment used for the statewide identification of English Language Learners in New York State. The NYSITELL will be based on and aligned to the NYSESLAT. The attached memo from NYSED provides all specific details including context, the phase in process, ordering information, test administration and scoring.

Please contact emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov with questions.

A call for translators!

We would love to add your name to the Translator's Resource List. If interested, please follow these easy steps:

1. Fill out the Translator Information Form.
2. Email the Translator Information Form to Mrs. Nova de los Santos at ruth.nova@questar.org.
3. In the event that a district seeks the service of a translator, the RBE-RN will provide the contact information of potentially available translators. The district and the translator will work out the translation service cost and payment.

Would you like to be added to our distribution list?

If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please email the following information to Ruth Nova de los Santos at ruth.nova@questar.org:

1. Name
2. School building
3. District or organization
4. Position
5. Email address

RBE-RN Event

Webinar for Part 154/Title III: Completing Required Reports 2013-2014

The RBE-RN has created a webinar on completing the required reports under CR Part 154 and Title III.

Accessible to anyone with a computer at any time, this webinar will address all aspects of the New York State programmatic reporting requirements for Limited English Proficient/English Language Learners and information on applying for supplemental funds under Title III.

To access the webinar on demand follow this link:

<https://questar.adobeconnect.com/admin/show-event-catalog>

To access the webinar via My Learning Plan and receive a certificate of attendance, follow this link: <https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/ActivityProfile.asp?D=15197&I=1413806>

If you have questions regarding any of these reports, or have any concerns with the webinar, please contact the RBE-RN at (518) 479-6859.

Other Events

2013 NYSABE Gala Leaders in Bilingual Education: “The Pillars of a Biliterate Generation”

Date: Friday, October 18, 2013

Time: 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Location: Fordham University at Lincoln Center
Lowenstein Building, 12th Floor Lounge
113 West 60th street
New York, NY 10023

Cost: \$95

The purpose of this special event is to honor leaders in Bilingual Education whose work has demonstrated their commitment to biliteracy. Through their dedicated work and determination they have laid the foundation that serves as the building blocks to establishing high quality programs that lead to biliteracy.

This activity will also serve as a fundraising opportunity to support NYSABE's advocacy, professional development, dissemination of information and parent activities. We thank you for your generous contribution and commitment to NYSABE's mission.

Attached please find the flyer and the Gala Reservation form with additional information.

For more information regarding the 2013 NYSABE Gala, please contact María de los Angeles Barreto at barmari@aol.com or Eva García at evgarcia@fordham.edu.

Thank you.

[2013-2014 ACARC Programs](#)

Albany City Area Reading Council: A council of IRA and affiliate of NYSRA

Energize Your Research: Reading and Writing Instruction

Date: Tuesday, October 15

Time: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Location: Sand Creek Middle School Library
329 Sand Creek Road, Albany N.Y.

We will join Christopher Lehman (twitter: @iChrisLehman), international speaker, educator, and author of professional books including Pathways to the Common Core (2012) with Lucy Calkins and Mary Ehrenworth, and Energize Research Reading and Writing (2012) for an interactive web session. Chris will describe key shifts in the teaching of research reading and writing that support student independence, achievement, and learning while avoiding boredom and plagiarism. Chris will help us think through the Common Core Learning Standards expectations related to research and informational text and provide practical strategies for supporting our students.

NYSRA Conference: Literacy for All Learners

Date: October 27-29, 2013

Location: Hilton Albany
40 Lodge St., Albany, NY 12207

Join the New York State Reading Association in Albany, NY for our annual conference to consider the question, “As we teach to the Common Core Learning Standards, how can we meet the needs of the diverse learners in our classrooms and libraries?”

For additional information please visit: <http://www.nysreading.org/Conference/2013>

Best books of 2013

Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Time: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Location: Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza
1475 Western Ave Albany, NY 12203

Presented by: Drs. Sherry Guice, Helen Stuetzel, and Liz Yanoff with Book House Expert Marggie Skinner

Our ever popular event returns. Find out what local book experts recommend for readers of all ages. Thank you to Book House for hosting us and always offering a 20-percent educator discount. This meeting is free and open to the public. We'll also begin the third year of our “New Books for New Homes” campaign in support of Capital District Habitat for Humanity.

Bringing Words to Life: A book club with Dr. Irene Rosenthal

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2014

Time: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Location: The College of Saint Rose, Standish Room A/B Events and Athletics Center
432 Western Ave Albany, NY 12203

Wondering how to teach vocabulary in ways aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards? Want to know how to build a “word consciousness” for your PreK-12 students? Join us as we answer your questions and discuss the newly revised Bringing Words to Life by Beck, McKeown, and Kucan. We will begin the conversation on ACARC’s Facebook page and our meeting will allow us to share what we’ve learned in applying the great ideas for teaching vocabulary in this book. Co-sponsored by The College of Saint Rose Thelma P. Lally School of Education

Digital Literacy

March 11 event hosted by Iroquois Reading Council.
Details forthcoming.

Disciplinary Literacy in Elementary Classrooms

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Time: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Location: Sand Creek Middle School Library
329 Sand Creek Road, Albany

Presented by: Dr. Virginia J. Goatley

What is disciplinary literacy? What does it look like in elementary classrooms? How do we use reading, writing, and talk as tools for learning in unique and discipline specific ways? With recent shifts and emphasis on English Language Arts in the disciplines, this talk will address elementary teachers’ needs, introducing key concepts from current trends in literacy education, in how to use literacies as tools to explore disciplinary content. Drawing on examples from K-6, we’ll consider how to promote high-level thinking and engagement with disciplinary content and address implications of using the Common Core for curriculum development and instruction, situated in research-based best practices.

If you have any a questions or concerns on the 2013-2014 ACARC Programs, please visit <http://www.nysreading.org/Conference/2013>

Common Core and ELLs Are Focus of New Online Course

Date: Monday, October 21, 2013 through Monday, December 9, 2013

Time: 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Location: Online:

Instructors: Kenji Hakuta, Jeff Zwiers and Sara Rutherford-Quach

Kenji Hakuta, a Stanford University professor and co-director of the Understanding Language initiative, will join two of his colleagues to offer a free, online course later this fall that will focus on the language demands of the Common Core State Standards.

The free series, called [Constructive Classroom Conversations](#)—a massive online open course, or MOOC—will be taught by Hakuta and two other Stanford colleagues who are language experts.

The MOOC, which will run from October 21 through December 9, will zero in on how educators can promote and support student-to-student academic discourse, especially in classrooms where all students are not proficient in English.

ELLs are often the least likely of students to engage in academic conversations with their peers during classroom instruction, but that must shift in the transition to the new standards, experts like Hakuta say.

The MOOC consists of four sessions with two or three weeks between each. The course is meant for participants who teach or have access to classrooms in which they can gather samples of students' conversation during lessons. Prospective participants can [sign up](#) through the Stanford website.

This is the latest resource for educators from the [Understanding Language](#) initiative, which is based at Stanford. The initiative is being led by a group of ELL experts who are developing an array of open-source resources on the common core and English-learners.

Additional Resources

Our website: rbern.questar.org

SED Office of Bilingual Education-Foreign Language Studies: www.p12.nysed.gov/biling

NYSESLAT Support: www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nyseslat/

New York State Association for Bilingual Education: www.nysabe.net

New York State TESOL: www.nystesol.org

Engage N.Y.: www.engageny.org

Albany U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants: www.refugeesalbany.org