

To: <email of Director/Head of School District's Multilingual Department>

From: Natalie Nwaeme

Date: June 15, 2023

Subject: English Learners Language Arts Curriculum for Newcomers!

Good afternoon (Mr./Mrs./Ms. insert last name of Head of District's Multilingual Department),

My name is Natalie Nwaeme, and I am a part of an organization that provides teachers of newcomer Emergent Bilingual (EB) students in grades 6 – 8 with a student-centered, technology-enhanced, project-based English Learner Language Arts curriculum that was specifically designed with EB students' unique needs in mind! Newcomer English learners (EL) or EB students are students who are in their first 3 years in a U.S. school. These culturally and linguistically diverse students are in the process of learning how to communicate in English while *simultaneously* learning academic content.

EL/EBs newcomers [currently make up 8%](#) of the [1.27 million Emergent Bilingual students](#) in Texas, and due to our proximity to the southern United States border, our schools have seen an unprecedented increase in the number of newcomer EB students year-over-year! To provide targeted support to this rapidly growing student sub-pop, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) adopted the [English Learner Language Arts \(ELLA\) standards](#) in 2017. While this was an advancement toward addressing the unique needs of newcomer EB students, a limited amount of ELLA curriculum resources, especially at the middle school level, exists. Additionally, most school districts were not able to effectively implement an ELLA curriculum due to the onset of the global pandemic.

We created the *ELLA Curriculum* to fill this void and bridge the gap!

The *ELLA Curriculum* offers over 150 engaging lesson plans that are differentiated and accommodated to support the needs of newcomer EB students by providing them with opportunities to engage in authentic learning while also supporting English language acquisition. In line with this, and as mentioned earlier, the curriculum is based on a student-centered, technology-enhanced, project-based learning model. That is a lot of hyphens, but they are all needed to show how amazing and game-changing the *ELLA Curriculum* can be for newcomer EB students in Lorem Independent School District!

The *ELLA Curriculum*, as it is simply known:

- ✓ Aligns to the English Learner Language Arts standards adopted by the Texas Education Agency (and corresponds to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as well).

- ✓ Creates a significant learning environment by allowing students to gain a deeper knowledge of the ELLA content through technology-enhanced, project-based learning opportunities that encourage active exploration of real-world challenges and problems.
- ✓ Covers all genres assessed on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and provides appropriate formative, summative and project-based assessments of learning.
- ✓ Provides scaffolds to support and encourage gradual in-person communication in English for newcomer students.
- ✓ Encourages newcomer EB students to bring their unique perspectives and cultures into the ELLA class as they work to become more proficient at communicating in English.

We would love to set up a brief meeting with you before the new school year starts! In this meeting, you and your team will see first-hand the benefits of adopting the *ELLA Curriculum* in Lorem ISD middle schools! Email demo@lorem.com to set up a demonstration or to request a quote for services.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,

Natalie Nwaeme

References

- Biliteracy Instruction (BI) in Transitional Bilingual Programs (TBE). (Texas Education Agency). Retrieved June 15, 2023, from <https://www.elltx.org/media/21ck1pms/cop-flyer-bi-in-tbe-and-newcomers.pdf>
- Emergent Bilingual/English Learner Category By Grade Report 2022-2023. (TEA). Retrieved June 15, 2023, from https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/adhocrpt/va/geo/elcategory_23.html
- Spanish Language Arts and Reading K -12 Vertical Alignment. (TEA). Retrieved March 19, 2022, from https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/Vertical%20alignment_adopted_K-12_Spanish.pdf