What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21st Century?

What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take:
Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today

Open Space Report: New York City

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following. When you're finished, please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!

1. Names of group members
   Xae Alicia Reyes, Miriam Yeung, Lisanne Kaplan, Vladimir Ashworth, Colleen Kubinski, Alla Kuznetskova, Mary Enright, Jean DiVincenzo, Trudi Durrell

2. Issue/Topic/Activity
   CT Caucus: Issues & Concerns with CT ELLs

3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps
   1) Professional Learning: for general ed teachers – need to extend this PD, cover the costs to districts & we need assistance getting both administrator & teacher participation AND buy in.
   2) SRBI (RtI) & ELLs: need to have proper assessments for ELLs and proper identification for placement in Special Education & PROPER UNDERSTANDING of WHAT Tier ELL is in RtI model (Tier 1) as well as appropriate Tier 2/Tier 3 services
   3) Assessment: changing the 10-month exemption for ELA assessment (increase it) & the IMMEDIATE (less than 10 month) Math & Science assessments
      Using assessments for progress monitoring & finding alternative or more appropriate assessments other than the mandates ones for this purpose
   4) Teacher Ed: myths
      using the media to communicate new trends & highlighting “Hollywood” teaching
      Mandate coursework in ELL strategies/SLA for all pre-service teachers & teach them that students need tasks that utilize all 4 language skills
   5) Oral Language development: need to stress this at the secondary level, where it gets lost to addressing the content
      Need to differentiate between reading & oral language dev & stress the research that states that for ELLs, strong Oral language development leads to greater gains in reading achievement & overall academic achievement
6) HS grad requirements: need to be the same for ALL students, including ELLs, but time needs to be allotted for students to reach these requirements & proper support (sheltered content classes FOR CREDIT) needs to be provided for the ELLs to reach their full potential and to develop a full future of their careers.

7) We need a COMMON MESSAGE & COMMON DIRECTION from CT Leadership (CSDE) for ASSESSMENT ACCOMMODATIONS & we need to have COLLABORATION among HIGHER Ed for teacher education.

4. Available Resources

ConnTESOL / CAPELL (a comprehensive list of resources is listed on the website here also) / CREC / EASTCONN / Project EXCELL / each other!!

5. Follow-up requests

An email list went around & will be tyoed up/shared with participants to follow up; a Call for Proposals for ConnTESOL will be sent to all to try to increase Professional Learning & more voices.

PLEASE have someone from OELA / TESOL K-12 represent ELLs in discussions about the ESEA Reauthorization & ASSESSMENTS.