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- **March 29-31, 2012 – Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) Conference, Columbus Ohio**
- **May 2, 2012 - The Annual Conference of Ohio University Linguistics Department (COULD), 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, Baker Center, Athens, Ohio**

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Professional Development Opportunities

- **March 14-April 30, 2012 - Regional “Start Ready, Graduate Ready” evening forums**
You are invited to attend a regional Start Ready, Graduate Ready evening forum to learn more about Ohio’s college and career-ready standards and the new state tests for social studies, English language arts, mathematics and science that will be used, starting with the 2014-15 school year.

During each two-hour meeting, scheduled for 6-8 p.m., participants will be provided a deeper look at the changes coming and what they can do now to prepare.

The events are sponsored by the State Board of Education, the Ohio Educational Service Center Association, the Ohio School Boards Association and the Ohio Department of Education.

To learn more and to register for a forum in your area, please open the attached “Big Changes Are Coming” flyer.

- **March 21-23, 2012 – Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Programs (OAASFEP) 2012 Spring Conference**
A featured workshop at this year’s OAASFEP spring conference is entitled *Promising Practices for English Language Learners*. This workshop presents best literacy practices for teachers working with English learners. The presenter, Dr. Sandra Mercuri, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Brownsville, will demonstrate how K-8 teachers have effectively used metacognitive, schema building, contextualization and language development strategies to help English learners develop academic literacy to be successful in school. Click [here](#) for more information about the conference.
- **March 28-31, 2012 – TESOL Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**
Click [here](#) for more information.
- **March 29-31, 2012 – Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) Conference, Columbus Ohio**
Click [here](#) for more information.
- **May 2, 2012 - The Annual Conference of Ohio University Linguistics Department (COULD),**
The conference aims to promote an intercollegiate and community awareness of research projects developed by faculty, students, and teachers throughout the region. The plenary speaker will be **Dr. Reiko Komiyama**, Assistant Professor of English at California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Komiyama will address the topic *Second Language Reading*

Updates from the Lau Resource Center – March 2, 2012

Motivation of EAP Students: Underlying Factors and their Relationships to Text Comprehension.

Persons interested in presenting information about research projects are encouraged to submit proposals. Research projects may include, but not be limited to, Linguistics, TESOL, Language Learning, Hearing and Speech Sciences, and Psychology.

Refer to the attached conference flyer for more information.

Announcements and Reports

➤ **The Ohio Department of Education Submitted a Waiver Request to the U.S. Department of Education on February 29, 2012**

On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, the Ohio Department of Education submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Education asking for a waiver of key portions pertaining to No Child Left Behind. Included in the waiver are sections that deal with English Language Learners. For the News Release, click on the following "[Ohio Asks for Federal Relief, New Era of Accountability](#)". For a full copy of the waiver, click on the following: [Ohio ESEA Flexibility Request](#)

➤ **English Language Learner (ELL) Accommodation Survey Results; Students with Disabilities (SWD) Accommodation Survey Results**

These documents provide a summary of responses to online surveys conducted by the Center for Special Needs Populations for the Office for Exceptional Children. The survey results are posted on the OTELA page of the Ohio Department of Education website under "Training and Support Materials" (click [here](#)).

Resources

➤ **Information and Guidelines from the Lau Resource Center**

This document includes acronyms and definitions of terms related to the education of English Language Learners (ELL). It also addresses topics that are often raised by ELL educators who contact the Lau Resource Center for information and guidance. Appreciation is extended to the Ohio ELL Advisory Committee for its assistance in the development of this document, which is posted on the "About the Lau Resource Center" page of the Ohio Department of Education website (click [here](#)).

Updates from the Lau Resource Center – March 2, 2012

➤ **Wordsift.com**

WordSift was developed under a grant from the Council of Great City Schools to Dr. Kenji Hakuta of Stanford University. This tool was created to help teachers manage the demands of vocabulary and academic language in their text materials. It helps anyone easily sift through texts -- just cut and paste any text into WordSift and you can engage in a verbal quick-capture. The program helps to quickly identify important words that appear in the text. To learn more about WordSift and to try it out, click [here](#).

➤ **Archived Webinars**

The following archived webinars can be accessed via the *Imagine Learning* website (click [here](#)). **Note:** *The information regarding the three webinars described below is being shared in this Update solely to provide educators the opportunity to hear ELL experts discuss topics of interest. The Ohio Department of Education does not endorse or promote products or services offered by for-profit companies.*

- **Removing Barriers to Learning for Long-Term English Learners**

Presenter: **Lily Wong Fillmore**, Jerome A. Hutto Professor of Education Emerita at University of California, Berkeley

Length: 63 minutes

About the Webinar:

Long-term English learners often struggle to reach proficiency in literacy and writing. So what can you do to help this growing student population jump-start the developmental process and acquire the literacy skills necessary for academic success? Join renowned educator and author Lily Wong Fillmore as she addresses key questions related to long-term English learners, a growing group of students who rarely receive the support they need to attain true proficiency and succeed in secondary grades.

In this presentation, you'll learn why so many English learners appear to stall in their efforts to learn English as a second language. You'll also learn how academic English instruction, combined with the right kind of instructional support, can help long-term English learners overcome obstacles to reaching proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking.

[View the webinar »](#)

- **Turning the Tide: Strategies for Closing the English Learner Achievement Gap**

Presenter: **Marc Liebman**, Chief Academic Officer at Imagine Learning & Mia A. Allen, Curriculum Specialist at Imagine Learning

Length: 56 minutes

About the Webinar

Updates from the Lau Resource Center – March 2, 2012

Recent findings from the National Center for Education Statistics show that despite numerous policies and programs designed to help English learners catch up with their native-speaking peers, the English learner achievement gap has continued to grow over the last ten years.

In this webinar, former superintendent Marc Liebman and dual language educator Mia Allen share essential strategies for keeping English learners motivated in the classroom, as well as valuable insights into the issues and roadblocks that can prevent this growing student population from finding success. You'll learn how to implement technology-based approaches that are proven to help English learners overcome obstacles and succeed in school. You'll also leave with strategies you can implement right away to start narrowing the achievement gap for your English learners.

[View the webinar »](#)

- **Diversity or Disability? Finding the Right Intervention for Your English Learners**

Presenter: **Mia A. Allen**, Curriculum Specialist at Imagine Learning

Length: 55 minutes

About the Webinar

In this webinar, experienced dual-language educator Mia Allen shares strategies for addressing language diversity and learning disability issues. You'll learn about the challenges of correctly identifying learning disabilities in English learners, as well as literacy-based RTI strategies you can implement with your students to better meet their needs.

[View the webinar »](#)