R A I S E  Y O U R  V O I C E
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English Learners and Common Core Standards
The Common Core Standards are a great opportunity to make a significant difference for English Learners, but only if we pay attention to the following:

With the Common Core Standards, all teachers will need to support active, academic language development. So teachers need:

- professional development, coaching and support in the language development strategies needed for active language engagement and academic language development in the classroom.
- appropriate curriculum and supplementary materials to support academic and oral language development across the curriculum.
- relief from using curriculum and strategies that are mostly teacher-directed, teacher-talk – and support for using collaborative, interactive, inquiry-based pedagogy instead.

You can’t build rigor on a weak foundation! In order for the Common Core to work for English Learners, schools need to provide a basic foundation of English Learner support, including:

- Strong ELD instruction with appropriate materials and professional development
- Teacher professional development on providing English Learner access to core content by focusing on academic language development, scaffolding and differentiation strategies for varying English proficiency levels.
- Guidance and support for implementing strong research-based English Learner program models, including dual language and bilingual alternative options

Don’t let the Common Core Standards leave our English Learners behind!