

English Language Proficiency Standards Writing Project 2023

Writing Team Members

Dr. Beverly Irby is a Texas A&M University System Regents Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Education and Human Development. She is also the Marilyn Kent Byrne Endowed Chair of Student Success. She earned her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Mississippi. Dr. Irby serves as the Director of the Education Leadership Research Center (ELRC) and the Co-director of the Center for Research & Development in Dual Language & Literacy Acquisition (CRDLLA) at Texas A&M University. As PI or Co-PI, she has led state and federal grants totaling more than \$64 million in external funding. A former teacher and school administrator, her primary research interests center on issues of social responsibility, including English as a second language education, administrative structures, curriculum, and instructional strategies.

Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio is a Texas A&M University System Regents Professor and the Director of the Center for Research & Development in Dual Language & Literacy Acquisition (CRDLLA). He earned his doctorate in Educational Psychology from the University of Utah. Previously he was a math teacher, professor, and university president in his home country of Guatemala. Dr. Lara-Alecio has made many contributions to the field of bilingual education, including his influential Four-Dimensional Bilingual Pedagogical Theory and Model designed for bilingual classrooms. He has authored and/or co-authored over 175 refereed publications. In external funding, he has secured more than \$108 million through federal and state agencies. His primary areas of research are in assessment, evaluation, and bilingual content area instruction.

Dr. Kristen Lindahl is Associate Professor in the Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She earned her Ph.D. in Linguistics with a specialization in L2 Teacher Education at the University of Utah. Dr. Lindahl's research agenda focuses on critical teacher language awareness, identity-oriented approaches to language teacher education, and content/language integrated learning in formal school settings. Dr. Lindahl is the co-Lead Editor of *TESOL Journal*, as well as the Principal Investigator of a National Professional Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), which supports teachers of secondary Emergent Bilinguals in the academic content areas. She also engages with English language programming and instruction globally for the U.S. Department of State as an English Language Specialist, working most recently with educators in Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil. Dr. Lindahl is a Past Chair of TESOL International Association's Teacher Education Interest Section, as well as a Past President of TexTESOL II.

Dr. Fuhui Tong is Professor and Interim Associate Provost and Dean of the Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional School. Prior to her appointment to that role, she served as the Department Head and Doug Palmer Endowed Chair of Educational Psychology. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Texas A&M University. Dr. Tong serves as the Co-director of the Center for Research & Development in Dual Language & Literacy Acquisition (CRDLLA). She has published 80+ refereed publications in top journals. Her research interests include second language and literacy development and assessment for students in bilingual and English as a second language settings.

Amberly Walker is a Coordinator for Federal Programs at Education Service Center Region 12 in Waco, Texas specializing in Title III: Bilingual/ESL Programs, McKinney-Vento, and Foster Care Liaison policy. Amberly is a PhD Candidate (ABD) at Texas Tech University in the area of Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on Language and Literacy. Research interests include professional development, teacher narratives, language acquisition, school reform, and curriculum design. Additionally, she served as President of Texas TESOL III, serves on the Board of the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Steering Committee, Prosper Waco Education Committee, and is an alumna of Leadership Waco. Amberly is the former Director of Advocacy for Texas Association for Literacy Education. Amberly is a Texas Education Policy Fellow. Her contributions to the Texas Education Agency include the English Language Arts TEKS committee, Bilingual Certification Pathway committee and the 2019 and 2023 ELPS Review and Development committees. Some of the best experiences in her life were working as a classroom teacher.