

Best Practices from

A State Leader in English Language Development

Gervais School District, OR



The Oregon Department of Education recently announced that Gervais School District stands out as a state leader, having met all three federal objectives for EL students for 2009-10.



Sylvia Valentine-Garcia, Director of Special Programs, shares how Gervais made this distinguished achievement.



What makes Gervais School District unique from others?

Gervais School District is unique because of its high migratory, high poverty, and high Limited English Proficient student populations.

How do you equip your teachers to provide research-based ELD instruction?

Our teachers receive training in English language development (ELD). They use the ELD standards to teach, assess, and inform instruction. Trainers and coaches are present in each of our buildings so staff can use them as a resource if they have questions or require feedback.

How do Ballard & Tighe's instructional materials align with the ELD standards?

Ballard & Tighe materials align with the ELD standards well. Even teachers with limited training can teach ELD using the materials because they are set up to "walk through" the standards. The teacher materials are very helpful in addressing the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing by following the suggested lesson structures in the teacher materials.

How has *Carousel of IDEAS* helped ELD teachers raise the English proficiency levels of Gervais' ELD students?

Carousel of IDEAS, along with the ELD training, allows teachers to plan and deliver a well-rounded ELD lesson without spending a lot of time preparing it. Each lesson provides the teacher with the standards to focus on.

Gervais' 2009-10 Achievement Statistics*

- 52% of ELs moved up one proficiency level
- Five-year ELs gained proficiency well above the state average of 36%
- ELs gained proficiency well above the state average of 19%

*According to the Oregon Department of Education (2010). Record Gains for English Proficiency Within 5 Years.

Gervais' Best Practices

- Training and mentoring staff in research-based EL instructional techniques;
- Ensuring ELD materials provide support to teachers and are interesting to students;
- Focusing on sheltered instruction for all students, including economically disadvantaged, English learners, and other subgroups;
- Providing extra intervention and instructional classes, including afterschool, winter/spring break, and summer school classes.

Recently Gervais implemented *Champion of IDEAS* as a solution for their secondary level ELs. Like *Carousel*, *Champion* is a structured and systematic ELD program.