



Empowering Newcomers in California's Central Valley

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

- District: **14 schools** | **13,567 students**
- Number of English learners: **3,495**
- Minority enrollment: **70%**
- Economically disadvantaged students: **39.2%**

EL NEWCOMER PROGRAM: GRADES K-12

- Pull-Out Support: 30-min in-person sessions during school day (K-5) | embedded ELD intervention (6-12)
- 3 District Itinerant ELD Teachers, 1 ELD Paraprofessional
- 6 Sites | 167 Students
- 20 Counties | 11 languages

What TUSD Educators Love About Ballard & Tighe's Products:

- An integrated ELD/screener solution that provides consistency across grades and proficiency levels
- Lesson plans and resources specifically designed for newcomers
- Built-in, scripted lesson plans with research-based content that aligns with ELPAC and state standards
- In-lesson assessments with clear steps for improving student proficiency
- The ability to use Online IPT report data to better support and differentiate instruction throughout the year
- Impressive gains and outcomes: 63% proficiency growth
- Robust professional development and training
- Comprehensive EL support spanning K-12
- Affordability

Integrated English Language Development Programs and Screeners Lead to Significant Proficiency Gains at Turlock USD

In recent years, Turlock Unified School District (TUSD), located in California's Central Valley, has welcomed a growing number of English learners, many who speak no English and who have had limited access to formal education or technology. The district's dedicated English language development (ELD) teachers strive to create a welcoming and safe environment for ELs and newcomers to thrive. As the number of students they serve has grown, TUSD educators have expanded and enhanced the district's dedicated newcomer program to better support the increasingly diverse student body.

Cohesive and Integrated: TUSD's New Approach to English Learner Support

Before the pandemic, TUSD relied on a patchwork of assessment kits and ELD programs to support their ELs and newcomers. However, the increasing newcomer population highlighted the need for a more cohesive and comprehensive ELD program and an English language proficiency screener.

Recognizing this need, Alice Solis, the district's director of English learners, assessment, and special programs, and her team sought a more integrated solution. They had seen positive results with Ballard & Tighe's supplemental ELD products in the past and believed these tools could provide the consistency they were aiming for.



Integrated lesson plans cover listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills.

In March 2020, TUSD launched a district-wide pilot of several Ballard & Tighe products: *Hands-On English* (K–3), *Frames for Fluency* (K–5), *Carousel of IDEAS* (K–5), and the OnlineIPT, a K–12 language proficiency assessment solution. At the time of the pilot, two ELD teachers served 50 newcomers.

By the 2023–24 school year, the newcomer population had grown to 167 students. Data from the OnlineIPT indicated that students would need additional language support, leading to the hiring of a third ELD teacher and an ELD paraprofessional.

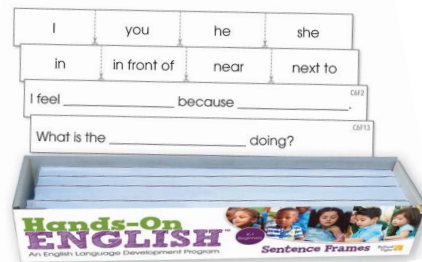


Teacher Approved

ELD Pilot Receives Enthusiastic Teacher Support

The response from district itinerant ELD teachers to the Ballard & Tighe pilot was overwhelmingly positive. “They loved it,” Solis shared, noting their enthusiasm for the sentence frames, visuals, vocabulary cards, and big book read-alouds. Teachers found value in the structured chapters and guided lesson plans, which were missing from previous ELD products. These resources included scripted lessons and in-lesson assessments that provided clear steps for improving student proficiency.

“**We were looking for something with a complete package,**” Solis said. “[We wanted] built-in lesson plans and research-based content that aligned with ELPAC and state standards.” Solis hoped that this comprehensive approach would support TUSD in effectively meeting the needs of its diverse and growing student population.



Data-Driven Reports Facilitate Differentiated Student Support

TUSD mandates language proficiency screeners be used three times a year to provide teachers with data to identify areas where students need additional support. After implementing the OnlineIPT as their language proficiency screener, Solis noted that district itinerant newcomer teachers could more effectively front-load necessary data to other teachers. By regularly sharing IPT reports with all teachers, they can better support and differentiate instruction throughout the year during designated ELD instruction.



Impressive Growth Results

Since implementing the OnlineIPT, Solis observed an impressive **63% proficiency growth** among the district's 167 newcomers. Additionally, the spring 2024 summative ELPAC reports indicated strong gains in language proficiency growth, solidifying newcomer success.

63%
Proficiency
Growth

Solis was thrilled to inform parents and caregivers about the “significant growth” their children were making. “There were a few reports that showed jumps from level 1 proficiency to level 3,” she shared, attributing this success to the supplemental Ballard & Tighe curricula and consistent use of OnlineIPT reports by teachers.

Solis emphasized that when teachers use Ballard & Tighe’s research-based curricula, administer the OnlineIPT with fidelity, and feel confident due to the training and professional development they receive, substantial student growth in English language proficiency follows.

TUSD’s ELD teachers appreciate how the OnlineIPT effectively targets specific areas where newcomers struggle, and the clear reports help teachers quickly identify where additional support is needed. They can then use *Carousel of IDEAS*, *Hands-On English*, and *Frames for Fluency* to build skills in these key areas. “They really like that alignment,” Solis said.

TURLOCK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

onlineipt Student Summary Report Report date: Oct 12, 2017

Jose R
DOB: May 10, 2009
Grade: 3
Age: 8
Gender: Male
Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino of any race
Primary Lang: Spanish
District: Ballard & Tighe Demo District
School: B. T. Elementary School
Test Period: Fall 2017

English Tests

Test Form	Test Date	School	Teacher
IPT I-Oral English Form G (2nd Ed.)	8/14/2017	B. T. Elementary School	Amelia Gomez
IPT 1D-English Reading (3rd Ed.)	8/21/2017	B. T. Elementary School	Amelia Gomez
IPT 1D-English Writing (3rd Ed.)	8/21/2017	B. T. Elementary School	Amelia Gomez

Spanish Tests

Test Form	Test Date	School	Teacher
IPT I-Oral Spanish (5th Ed.)	9/04/2017	B. T. Elementary School	Amelia Gomez
IPT 1 Spanish Reading (5th Ed.)	9/12/2017	B. T. Elementary School	Amelia Gomez
IPT 1 Spanish Writing (5th Ed.)	9/12/2017	B. T. Elementary School	Amelia Gomez

English Tests

Proficiency Level	Beginning	Early Intermediate	Intermediate	Early Advanced	Advanced	Scaled Score	Percentile	Normal Curve Equivalent
IPT Designation	Non-		Limited	Fluent/ Competent				
Oral	Limited, Early Advanced					136	37	43
Reading	Limited, Intermediate					219	23	34
Writing	Limited, Early Intermediate					123	14	27
Overall Proficiency	Limited, Intermediate							

Spanish Tests

Proficiency Level	Beginning	Early Intermediate	Intermediate	Early Advanced	Advanced
IPT Designation	Non-		Limited	Fluent	
Oral	Limited, Early Advanced				
Reading	Limited, Intermediate				
Writing	Non-, Beginning				
Overall Proficiency	Limited, Early Intermediate				

Relative Weakness Matrix

Diagnostic Dimension*	Relative Weakness		
	None	Mild	Severe
Vocabulary			
Grammar			
Comprehension			
Language Functions (including academic language)			
Listening			
Speaking			
BICS (basic language)			

Student skills profile and reports help provide targeted instructional interventions.

Addressing the Needs of a Growing High School Newcomer Population

After witnessing the structure that *Carousel of IDEAS*, *Frames for Fluency*, and *Hands-On English* provided the district's K–5 ELs, Solis recognized the need for something similar for older students, a rapidly growing age group at TUSD. “In one week, we had 30 newcomers arriving from Afghanistan, India, Peru, and Argentina,” Solis noted.

During the 2023–24 school year, the district piloted *Champion of IDEAS* (6–12). Previously, high school newcomer support was provided after class or on weekends. This schedule proved problematic as many students in this age group were working after-school jobs to help support their families. “We had minimal participation,” Solis explained, “and now we know why.” Consequently, the district moved to integrate *Champion of IDEAS* into the embedded intervention time within the school day.

After the first year of piloting *Champion of IDEAS*, the teachers using it are confident they can apply their learnings to expand and continue meeting the growing needs of high school newcomers.

“It’s very rare to find a supplemental program that spans all grades. I know that is a plus for us.”

~ Alice Solis

TUSD Director of English Learners, Assessment, and Special Programs



Proven Effectiveness and a Promising Future Across All Grades

Solis emphasized the unique capability of Ballard & Tighe’s ELD programs and OnlineIPT to support EL newcomers from elementary through high school. **“It’s very rare to find a supplemental program that spans all grades. I know that is a plus for us,”** she remarked.

Despite budget constraints in the district, Solis is a strong advocate for the affordability of Ballard & Tighe, citing the “meaningful results” these programs have delivered. She also highlights the importance of consistency, comprehensive support, and robust professional development in achieving these outcomes.



Outstanding Training, Support, and Professional Development

Solis and her team were particularly impressed with the support they received from Ballard & Tighe. Implementing new tools requires thorough training, and Solis noted that the training provided by Ballard & Tighe was exceptional. Both teachers and administrators valued the professional development that was offered which included:

- High-quality, accessible training sessions
- Flexible timelines to accommodate teachers’ schedules
- Staff support for implementation and pacing

“Brenda, [an educational consultant at Ballard & Tighe], has always been available and even recently trained our summer school teachers on using the ELD programs. The support has been outstanding,” Solis said. Teachers appreciated having all the necessary tools integrated within each product. **“It’s all right there,”** she added, emphasizing the convenience and completeness of the resources provided.

Learn from the ELD Experts at Ballard & Tighe

Check out our free, on-demand professional learning webinars.

[Explore Webinars](#)

Looking ahead, the district’s primary focus is on improving proficiency and rigor in writing. Solis believes that the continued district-wide implementation of Ballard & Tighe’s ELD programs for grades K–12 will help students make gains in writing, as well as reading, listening, and speaking.

“Ballard and Tighe works for our ELs!” Solis remarked. “We have plans to continue using their products and assessments next school year.”

**Interested in improving ELD proficiency and instruction with your ELs?
Schedule a demo and get a free trial!**

Take a Look at the Ballard & Tighe Products TUSD Uses for English Learner Support!

For over 45 years, Ballard & Tighe has provided engaging and effective materials for assessing and instructing English learners.



Hands-On ENGLISH (K-1 Beginners)

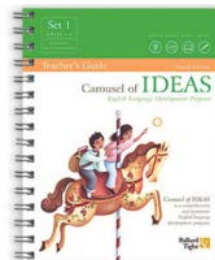
Hands-On English, designed for newcomers and beginners, is flexible, and adaptable, with scaffolds and differentiation to help students develop literacy, reading, and academic skills!

www.ballard-tighe.com/handsonenglish

Carousel of IDEAS (K-5)

A comprehensive, research-based language development program for K-5 English learners at the beginning through advanced levels of language proficiency.

www.ballard-tighe.com/carousel-of-ideas



Champion of IDEAS[®] Grades 6-12 ♦ All proficiencies

Champion of IDEAS (6-12)

Rigorous, research-based language development program for middle and high school English learners at all levels of language proficiency.

www.ballard-tighe.com/champion-of-ideas



Frames for Fluency (K-12)

Our award-winning Frames for Fluency oral language development tool provides 550 ready-made sentence frames with targeted scaffolds to help English learners of all levels achieve grammatical accuracy and oral fluency.

www.ballard-tighe.com/frames-for-fluency



K-12 Online IPT Assessment Solution

- Identification
- Placement
- Progress Monitoring
- Redesignation
- Dual Language
- Targeted Intervention

www.ballard-tighe.com/ipt

Contact Us for a **Free Demo & Trial!**