

Changes in accommodation policies for English Language Learners: Idaho's example

Northwest Regional
Comprehensive Center Webinar
May 29, 2009



Welcome and Introductions

■ Speakers

- Wendy St Michell, Idaho State Department of Education
- Lynette Thompson, Northwest Regional Comprehensive Center

■ Participants



National Context

- LEP Partnership
- GW-CEEE funded to create a guide based on their research
- *Guide for Refining State Assessment Policies for Accommodating English Language Learners*

<http://ceee.gwu.edu/AA/RefinementStatePolicies.pdf>



Regional Context

- Supplemental Funding award
- Meetings with each state to complete self-assessment of needs related to
 - ELL Accommodations Policy
 - Professional Development on Policy
 - Monitoring system for ELL accommodations



Idaho's previous policy '06-'07

- Not user friendly
- Too wordy
- Uses Special Ed rubric (presentation, setting, administration, scheduling, response) which is not responsive to the unique linguistic needs of ELLs



First Policy Revision

- Used GW-CEEE's *Guide..*
 - Reviewed and Refined Policy
 - Added ELL Responsive Accommodations Taxonomy
 - Streamlined accommodations/Refined accommodations rubric
 - Added definition of accommodations



Second Policy Revision

In collaboration with GW-CEEE

- Separated section on test administration practices appropriate for ELLs
- Added summary of accommodations list



Second Policy Revision (cont.)

- Refined rubric- removed unnecessary/ not-applicable accommodations
- Limited the accommodations policy to our state standards achievement test (and others as applicable)



Next Steps

- Send policy through Idaho stakeholder review
- Release with training powerpoint
- Grant to monitor accommodations in pilot sites
- Align with SpEd accommodation codes
- Will “borrow” Massachusetts’ list of approved bilingual word-to-word dictionaries

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/participation/?section=lep>



Questions?



SEAs Share Updates

- What are the ELL accommodations policy revisions your state had made?

And/or:

- What challenges has your state faced in planning for and implementing policy changes?



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Contact Information

If you have questions or would like additional information about Idaho's policy, please contact:

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