Institute of Education Sciences

Elementary Grade English Learners

Practice Guide

Recommendation 4

Develop Academic English

Level of Evidence: Low
Research to Support the Recommendation

Experimental Research

• Paucity of experimental research
• Strong consensus of expert opinion
How to Carry Out the Recommendation
1. Adopt a plan that focuses on ways and means to help teachers understand that instruction to English learners must include time devoted to development of academic English. Daily academic English instruction should also be integrated into the core curriculum.
2. Teach academic English in the earliest grades.
Provide teachers with appropriate professional development to help them learn how to teach academic English.
4. Consider asking teachers to devote a specific block (or blocks) of time each day to building English learners’ academic English.
**Steps for Carrying Out the Recommendation**

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Other Considerations

“In the Panel’s view, error correction needs to be focused on the instructional target of the lesson. If the instructional focus . . . . is on word forms such a success, successful, and succeed, teachers should ignore other errors” (p. 27).