

As a Multilingual English Learner (MEL) Specialist, I led a collaborative initiative at one of my assigned high schools to improve outcomes on the WIDA ACCESS exam for English learners. Utilizing the concepts learned from the Educational Leadership and Foundations School Leadership M.Ed. program, I worked with administrators and MEL Facilitators collaboratively at the school level to improve student performance on the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs exam. The concepts of positive leadership, building capacity, and shaping school culture have become a part of the way I approach my work in K-12 public schools, which I hope provides a beacon of light to refugee, immigrant, and Multilingual English Learner students that have settled in the Tooele Valley and attend public schools. Despite historical and current racial tensions in the Tooele Valley, and our collaborative efforts at Tooele High School helped heal wounds of the past and positively impacted student disposition and performance on the annual language proficiency exam. Our efforts increased the number of students passing the WIDA exam from 3 in the previous year to 20 this year. The smiles on faces of our students and their parents upon receiving their scores made all of our efforts worth it!