



Bureau of Student Achievement through Language Acquisition

Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida

Our Staff

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- Mark Drennan,
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- Adeola Fayemi,
Immigrant Children and Youth Grant & District ELL Plans
850-245-9555
- Albert Vitria-Marca,
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Newsworthy Information

World Language Standards—
online for public input; [http://
etc.usf.edu/flstandards/
index.htm](http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/index.htm)

Performance Standards—
technical assistance at the
Clearwater Leadership
meeting

Look for Exit Criteria Rule
Development

Updates to the ELL District

In an effort to communicate up-to-date information on Federal and State mandates, rules, department and staff changes, the Bureau is launching its first newsletter to districts.

We are very excited about this new venture, and hope that this newsletter will assist you and your district with information regarding Florida's English language learners (ELLs).



The issues will be sent monthly. With the onset of many changes taking place at the FDOE and the impact these changes will have on our ELLs, along with the day-to-day concerns, the Bureau has taken this step to make sure District questions are answered and clarified.

The Bureau invites your feedback. If you have questions or comments, the subsequent newsletter will address those concerns.

Listed on the sidebar is the Bureau's staff and each person's primary responsibilities. Feel free to contact any of our staff or SALA@fldoe.org, with your issues and we will ensure that they are addressed, promptly. We sincerely hope you will find this newsletter helpful.

Meet the Staff at SALA

Sonya Collins

Sonya worked with the Florida State University Bookstore in the accounting office. From there she went to work with the Leon County Sheriff's Office as a Communication Office, and later moved into a Lead Worker position. In August of 2004 she began her career with the FDOE and worked in the Chancellor's office until June of 2009. Sonya then moved to the SALA Bureau, where she currently is responsible for all administrative work that filters through this department. Ms. Collins can be reached at sonya.collins@fldoe.org.

Pat Faircloth

Pat is a Program Specialist IV, with the Bureau. A graduate from Florida State University, she has been with the FDOE since April, 1980. She currently designs strategies for analyzing and verifying the accuracy of data for reports and special projects and provides technical assistance to school district personnel, teachers, parents/guardians, and student advocates. Pat also reviews the NCLB, Title III grants, reviews District ELL Plans and conducts NCLB and ESOL onsite monitoring visits, review of desktop work papers and works with the *Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment* (CELLA). Pat can be reached via e-mail: pat.faircloth@fldoe.org

Ginger Alberto

Ginger has a B.S. in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University. While working as a substitute at her children's school, she decided to pursue a career in education, and became certified to teach elementary grades.

Ginger and her family moved to Tallahassee from Broward County. She has been in the SALA Bureau for six years. Although her job duties include reviewing NCLB, Title III grants and District ELL Plans, her primary responsibility is acting as lead program specialist for teacher certification and professional development. Ginger can be reached via e-mail: ginger.alberto@fldoe.org.

Adeola Fayemi

Adeola is currently the Director of the Immigrant Children and Youth grant. She obtained her doctorate degree in Adult Education and Human Resource Development from the Florida State University and her Masters and undergraduate degrees from universities in Nigeria, West Africa. At SALA, she is primarily responsible for managing federal government grants specifically targeted to immigrant children and youth. She is also responsible for ensuring that District ELL Plans are updated and in compliance with the requirements of the Florida Consent Decree.

Adeola has worked with the FDOE for seven years and was formerly the Director of the Office of Equity and Access. She also has eight years of experience working for the City of Tallahassee in the equal opportunity and workforce development fields. She is a former middle/high school teacher, and a certified mediator. Adeola can be reached via e-mail: Adeola.fayemi@fldoe.org.

Tatiana Fernández

Tatiana serves as a translator/interpreter and research assistant. Additionally, Tatiana is the World Languages lead contact and assists with the Ministry of Spain and the Ministry of France's Teacher Exchange Program. Prior to joining the SALA Bureau in August 2008, Tatiana served as the Executive Assistant for the Florida Education Foundation.

Tatiana earned a B.A. in History from the Florida State University and studied Italian at the Scuola Lorenzo de' Medici in Florence, Italy. She holds a M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communication and a Certificate in Hispanic Marketing Communication from the Florida State University. Tatiana can be reached via e-mail: tatiana.fernandez@fldoe.org.

Mark Drennan

Mark has a M.S. in Multilingual/Multicultural Education from Florida State University. He taught English as a second language to students of all ages at a school in Orlando. He was the ESOL teacher in Jefferson County. He came to the FDOE in November of 2006. His current duties include coordinating activities relating to the NCLB, Title III grant, ESOL and Title III monitoring, and the Visiting Teacher Program. Mark can be reached via e-mail: mark.drennan@fldoe.org.

Gary Sabitsch

Gary is employed by Questar, Assessment, Inc. He is assigned to the SALA Bureau and works at the direction of the Bureau Chief, Lori Rodriguez. He promotes the success of the *Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment* (CELLA) project in all areas including; test materials, manuals, communication, scoring and reporting, and serving as a technical resource for districts and schools. Gary's background includes; eight years of experience in the State Assessment Office, governmental consulting, and business ownership. He holds a B.S. in Finance from Jacksonville State University. Gary can be reached via e-mail: gary.sabitsch@fldoe.org.

Albert Vitria-Marca

Albert is currently the Education Advisor of the Embassy of Spain Education Office in the SALA Bureau. He obtained his M.S. in German Studies, and Classics (Major in Ancient Greek language and literature) from the University of Barcelona, in Spain. At the SALA Bureau, he is the liaison between the Spanish Ministry of Education and the FDOE. He is primarily responsible for the Spanish Visiting Teachers Exchange Program and for promoting different programs run by the Embassy of Spain Education Office.

Albert has been with the FDOE since September, 2009. Formerly he taught Spanish, Latin, and Ancient Greek in different high schools in Spain and Great Britain. He was a high school principal in Barcelona, Spain and an elementary, middle and high school principal in London. Before joining the FDOE, he worked in a Teaching Resource Center in Barcelona, where he offered services and resource materials designed to enhance the teaching abilities and professional development of teachers and administrators. Albert can be reached via e-mail: albert.vitria-marca@fldoe.org

Lori Rodriguez

Lori began her career as an ESOL instructor in 1972, when she taught 15 Brazilian engineers working for private industry the skills needed to survive with the language. She then worked at Santa Fe Community College for several years as an adjunct ESOL instructor and interim ESOL director.

After returning to the public school system she worked summers at the University of Florida's English Language Institute teaching prospective UF ELL students. During her term as a high school English teacher, Lori returned to school to get her M.Ed. Specialization in Multilingual/Multicultural Education. She also has a M.A. in Education and B.A. in English.

She has been with the Bureau since September, 2008 and can be reached via email:

lori.rodriquez@fldoe.org

