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## NEW GRANT TO BOOST K-2 ENGLISH LEARNER LANGUAGE SKILLS

**Long Beach, Calif.:** [California League of Schools](#) has been awarded a four-year, \$1.85 million National Professional Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help early-grades elementary school educators increase their academic language instruction and family engagement skills. The program, titled *The Pedagogical Paradigm: Instructional Routines for Educators of English Learners*, will begin in October 2017.

The Paradigm program will build welcoming communities among staff, students and families while also teaching principals and teachers of grades K-2 the explicit routines needed to build students' confidence and capabilities in English language use. Partnering with CLS will be:

- [Dr. Kate Kinsella](#) and [Theresa Hancock](#), authors and teacher educators, who will develop specialized curricula and train teachers and principals in the materials and associated instructional routines,
- [Families In Schools](#), a nonprofit that will train school staff in creating welcoming environments that engage students and families,
- Four California school districts that will collaborate in implementing the program in elementary schools which serve high percentages of English learners ([Moreno Valley USD](#), [Hemet USD](#), [Elk Grove USD](#), and [Franklin-McKinley SD](#)), and,
- [ERC](#), a firm that will provide independent program evaluation.

The program is based on the CLS [English Learner Families For College](#) (FFC) program, a grant that lead agency CLS and the partners listed above (with Moreno Valley USD as the sole district) are completing for the U.S. Department of Education. In FFC, 83% of English learners reclassified as Fluent English Proficient by the start of 9<sup>th</sup> grade in time for college preparatory classes. "They have a certain swagger now," one middle-school English teacher observed of her reclassified, FFC-program English learners who gained new confidence in their academic abilities.

By improving academic language skills at the beginning of their school careers, Paradigm students will achieve at grade level in English-language arts and other subjects for more of their K-12 years, helping them to see themselves as scholars and better position themselves for brighter futures.

CLS is a California-based nonprofit membership organization that creates meaningful learning, recognition, and networking opportunities for the benefit of K-12 educators and the students they serve.

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