

**UNIVERSITY
AT ALBANY**
State University of New York

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About Know Your Schools ~for NY Kids

One goal of NYKids is to help educators learn from other educators whose students consistently perform well. Prior studies identified best practices in high school, middle school, middle school science, elementary school, critical needs students at the elementary level, and high schools with high graduation rates. Results of all studies are available at www.albany.edu/nykids. Each study provides a report of findings, case studies, best practice frameworks, sample evidence from higher-performing schools, self-surveys, and more. In addition, planning tools and institutes can be arranged to help school teams make better use of all the resources.

For more information:

contact swiles@albany.edu or call 518-442-5171

Know Your Schools ~for NY Kids is a project of the University at Albany School of Education. Guidance is provided by a statewide Advisory Board; funding is provided, in part, by the State of New York and the University at Albany.

Supporting the achievement of English language learners

Promising
practices from
odds-beating
elementary
schools



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Supporting the Achievement of ELLs

Findings

The results of a recent study of higher-than-expected performance by English language learners in elementary schools suggest that their achievement is related to conditions in the district, school, and classroom that include:



A welcoming school climate in a culture that emphasizes high expectations and equitable access to rigorous curricula.



Inclusive, individualized, and culturally responsive instructional approaches offered by skilled and dedicated ENL and other teachers and support staff.



Team configurations and communications to serve ELLs and their families.



A holistic approach to leadership and capacity building for ELLs' success.

Results

Details about how schools with above average ELL achievement create these conditions can be found in a new report as well as in case studies of six odds-beating schools. All are available for free download at:

www.albany.edu/nykids



About the Research

Conducted in the 2015-2016 school year, this 6 school cross-case study investigated factors that promote higher than average performance among English Language Learners (ELLs) at the elementary level. Schools were identified based on performance outcomes as well as a variety of other demographic criteria. Performance outcome measures included the 2012-13 and 2013-14 New York State mathematics and English language arts assessments in the elementary grades. By comparing expected to actual average performance, schools could be classified as “odds beating” if the difference between expected and actual performance was close to one standard deviation greater than the mean difference for all schools in the state. Of 1,378 schools serving grades three through five or six outside of New York City, 127 were identified as potential “odds-beaters.” The sample was then investigated to identify only those schools in “good academic standing” for ELL performance. The sample was further winnowed into three categories: rural, suburban, and urban schools and those serving more or less economically disadvantaged and/or ethnically diverse student populations, favoring both higher poverty and higher diversity in the final sample. Finally, only schools whose per-pupil expenditures, combined wealth ratio, and percentages of expenditures on instruction clustered near the state average were considered for inclusion in the study.

The Six Odds-Beating Elementary Schools Studied:

Blue Creek Elementary School
North Colonie Central School District

Guilderland Elementary School
Guilderland Central School District

Catskill Elementary School
Catskill Central School District

Schuylerville Elementary School
Schuylerville Central School District

Fostertown ETC Magnet School
Newburgh Enlarged City School District

Van Rensselaer Elementary School
Rensselaer City School District