



Boston Public Schools

Excellence for All



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January 29, 2021

In this Presentation We Will Discuss:

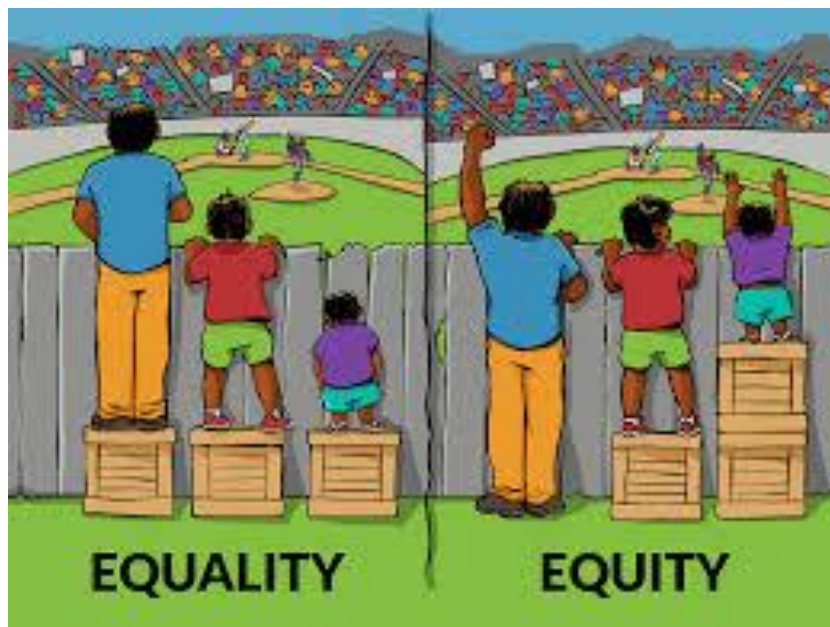
- WHAT IS THE EXCELLENCE FOR ALL INITIATIVE
- THE ORIGINS OF EFA
- THE EFA MODEL
- THE INITIATIVE'S GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND PROGRAMS



WHAT IS THE EXCELLENCE FOR ALL INITIATIVE? WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OF EFA?

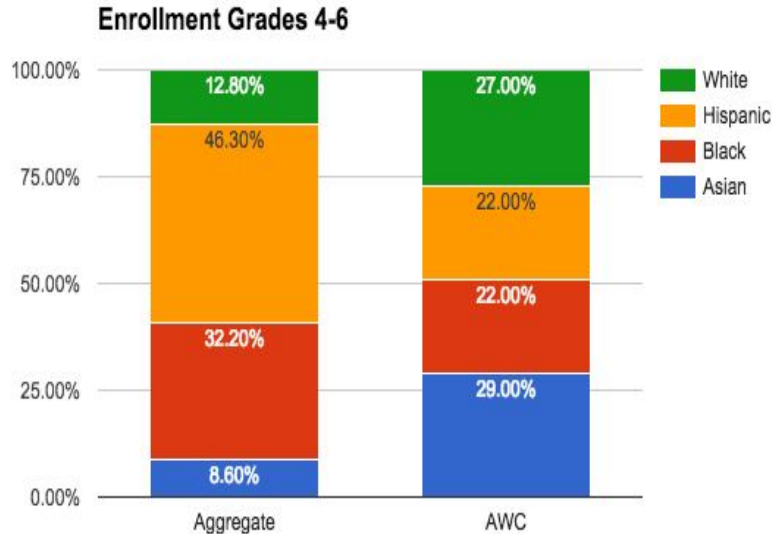


EFA's Purpose: *Who we are & what we do*



- EFA is an **EQUITY** initiative, focused on
 - Closing opportunity & achievement gaps
 - Historically marginalized populations, particularly Black and Latinx students, ELL students and students with special needs.
- We provide targeted supports

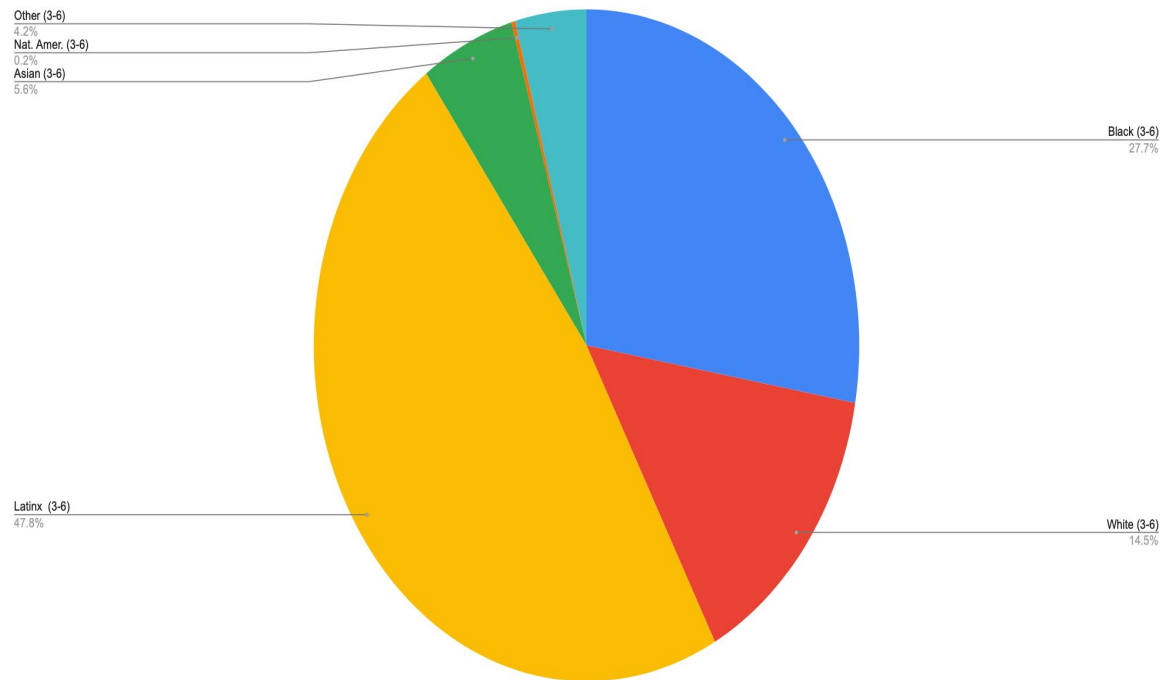
Genesis & Purpose of EFA



EFA: The push to eliminate opportunity gaps

- [The Opportunity and Equity Gap](#) report highlighted Advanced Work Class (AWC) as a clear and salient example of inequity.
- At the time the report, only 8% of BPS students were served by AWC in grades 4-6.
- Additionally, African-American and Latinx students are significantly underrepresented in AWC programs compared to their White and Asian peers.
- **Excellence for All was designed to expand access to more challenging studies and enrichment experiences for all grade 3-6 students.**

EFA reaches 2249 students in Grades 3-6 across 14 schools



30% of all Excellence for All students are English Learners

Current EFA Schools by Neighborhood



Allston/Brighton

Edison K-8

Gardner Pilot Academy K-8

East Boston

Guild Elementary

Roslindale

Bates Elementary

Irving Middle

Philbrick Elementary

Sumner Elementary

Charlestown

Harvard-Kent Elementary

Hyde Park

Grew Elementary

Dorchester

Frederick Middle

Holmes Innovation School

Martin Luther King Jr. K-8

Jamaica Plain

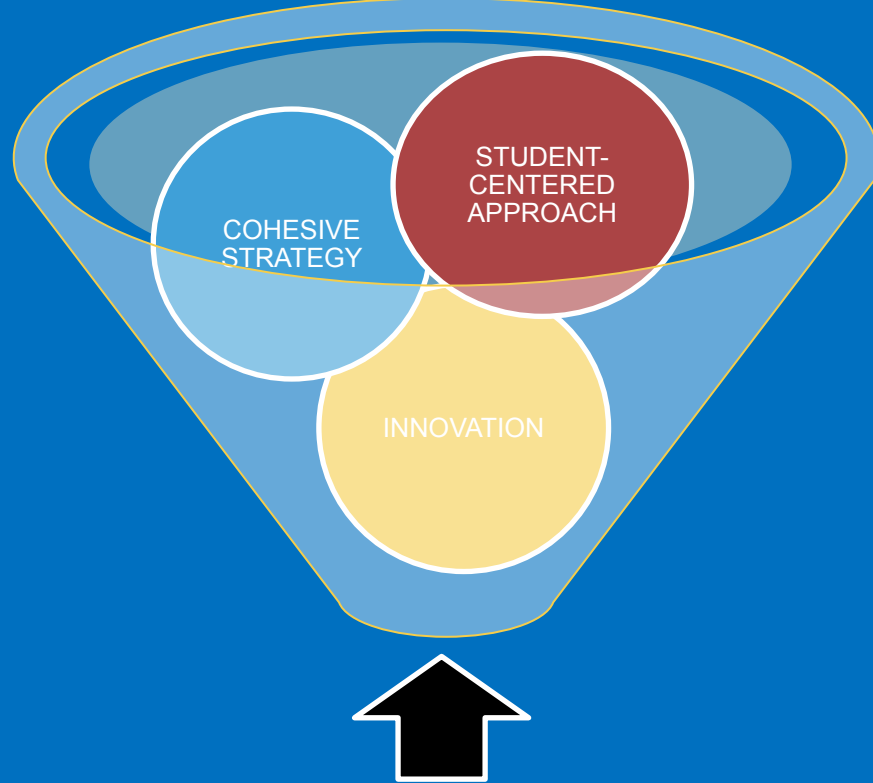
Curley K-8

Roxbury

Mendell Elementary

WHAT ARE THE MODEL, GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND PROGRAMS OF THE INITIATIVE?





EQUITY

Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Practices

Program Pillars

EFA is capacity-building, flexible, responsive to needs of students, educators, and the school.

We provide supports in five targeted areas: Rigorous Instruction, Quality Enrichments, CLSP/SEL, Executive Function, and Personalized Learning.

Rigorous Instruction

- Universally designed coursework with high levels of rigor
- Student-centered learning that is culturally and linguistically responsive

Quality Enrichments

- Cognitively enriching experiences in STEM and World Language that connect students to the world beyond the classroom

CLSP/SEL

- Culturally & Linguistically relevant & safe learning environments that promote agency

Executive Function

- The organizational and study skills to facilitate learning

Personalized Learning

- The school's academic structure supports each student's unique pathway to success

EFA Pillars:	Strategy	Short-Term Outcomes	Medium-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
Rigorous Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PD & Coaching • Acceleration • Data Use • OAG's CLSP Training • Out-of-School Time (OST) programs 	Decrease opportunity gaps for Black and Brown students by increasing their access to quality culturally responsive curricula, instruction, enrichments and OST programming Increase Teacher capacity to provide quality culturally responsive instruction	Increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student reading level • Student writing ability • Increase student's ability to master standards-aligned work 	Decrease achievement gaps in English Language Arts for Black and Latinx Students
Executive Function	Teacher Training & Coaching on Executive Function		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give students the skills to organize thinking & have ownership of learning 	Increase Student & Family Satisfaction
Personalized Learning	Capstone - Student Academic Conference & Coaching for teachers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase students' ability to conduct research, and gain higher order thinking skills 	Increase Students' Higher-Order Thinking Skills & 21st
Quality Enrichments	Student Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM • World Language • Scholars Program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High engagement in classrooms • Increase students' ability to solve complex problems 	Century Skills Culturally affirming school and classroom environments
CLSP/SEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEL Supports and training • OAG's CLSP Training 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide culturally relevant content and curricula • Increase positive trusting relationships in the classroom 	

Teacher Development Programs

- ELA and Social Studies Coaching
- Academic Language & WIN Coaching
- Writing Graduate Courses & Coaching (Boston College)
- Edvestors [Zeroing In On Math](#) (ZioM)
- Executive Function Coaching and Professional Learning from [ResearchILD](#)
- Project-based learning PD, Coaching, and Technical assistance
- Social emotional Development thru [PEAR](#)
- CLSP professional learning

Student Programs

- Writing program
- Math and reading acceleration (WIN Program)
- World Language
- STEM
 - Gr 3 & 4 - Coding
 - Gr 5 - Robotics
 - Gr 6 - 3D Printing & Coding
 - STEM Externships
 - OST STEM Programs
- Scholars
 - ISEE Prep, High School Prep
 - Parent Workshops
- Capstone ([WGBH](#) as a partner)
- Social Justice Academy

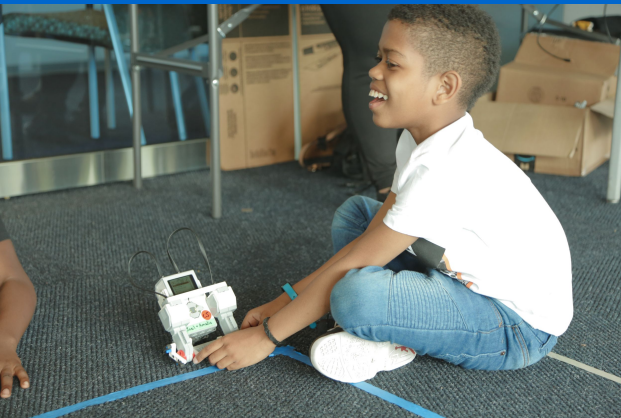
High-Quality
Professional
Development

Changes in
Educator
Knowledge, Skills,
and Dispositions

Changes in
Educator Practice

Improved Student
outcomes

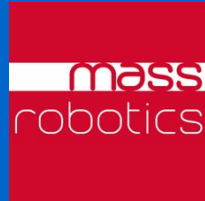
Highlights: Student Programs



STEM Technology Engineering

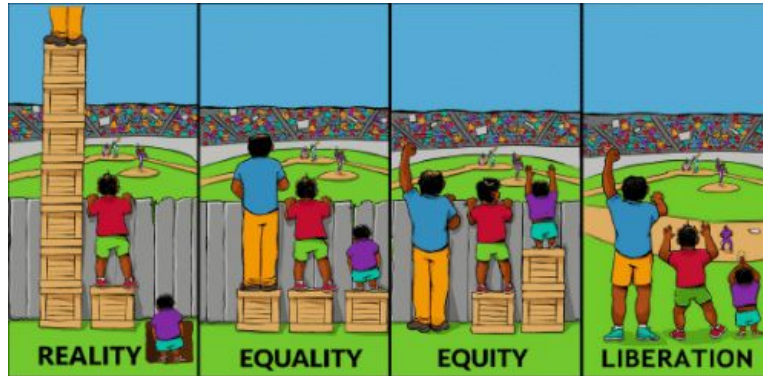
Description of the EFA STEM Program	<p>Students in grades 3-6 receive a STEM enrichment course once per week for 60-90 minutes.</p> <p>EFA STEM Courses by grade: Grade 3: Coding/Code.Org Grade 4: Coding (Scratch) Grade 5: Robotics (Lego Mindstorms EV3) Grade 6: Advanced Coding/Gaming (Scratch) and 3D Printing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ EFA STEM is in 10 schools ❑ 1481(67.4%) of 2200+ students take STEM.
Curriculum	<p>The curriculum reinforces math and science knowledge. Students do a number of mini-projects using innovative strategies that advance their abilities to analyze, problem solve, and reason.</p>	

STEM PARTNERS

The logo for Suffolk, featuring the word "Suffolk" in a black, sans-serif font.The logo for formlabs, featuring the word "formlabs" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized black and white geometric logo.

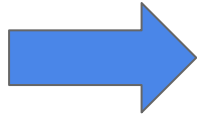
Through various partnerships, students are exposed to the ways innovative technologies are being used in the field today (drones, robotic arms, AR/VR) connecting their classroom learning with the real world.





FROM:

- ❑ student's ability to think critically, to parse, infer, deduce, induce, create, and imagine.
- ❑ Build student's ability to solve complex problems
- ❑ To increase knowledge



TO:

- ❑ Build student's ability to think critically about issues of race and social justice
- ❑ Build student's ability to solve complex problems in their own communities
- ❑ To build their academic identities as entrepreneurs, scientist, engineers, innovators, and more
- ❑ To remove limitations in the imagination

Authentic Assessment Opportunities

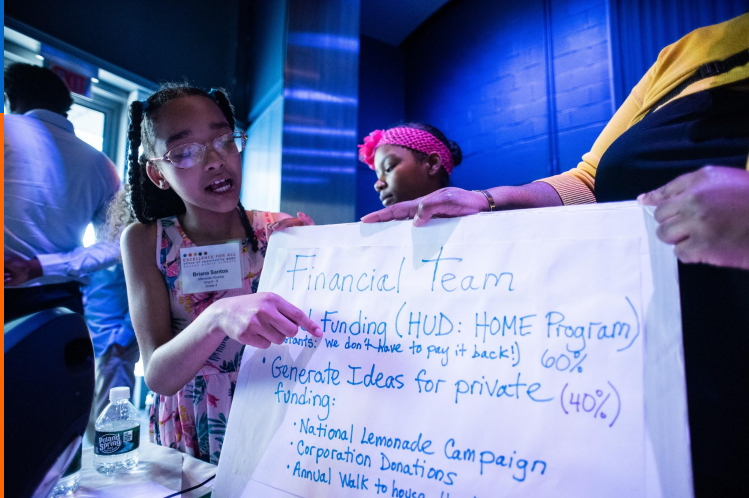


**Capstone - Student
Project- Based Learning
Experience(s):** Higher-Order
Thinking (HOT), Investigate
Community Issue, Inequity & Bias,
Create Solutions

[Inequity During Katrina & Housing](#)



Students created innovative
solutions to
community-based challenges



WHAT IS THE EMERGING EVIDENCE ABOUT EFA's IMPACT?



2020 EFA Report

New York University Metro Center led a mixed-methods evaluation to examine the implementation of EFA from 2016-2019 and asked three research questions:

1. How EFA contributed to the academic and social emotional development of students, including cultivating confidence and academic perseverance?
2. How has EFA provided support and coaching for teachers and school staff?
3. In what ways are teachers, students, and families satisfied with EFA?

Background & Context

EFA launched in the Fall of 2016 with STEM and World Language and two Professional Development series' (Writing and Universal Design for Learning)

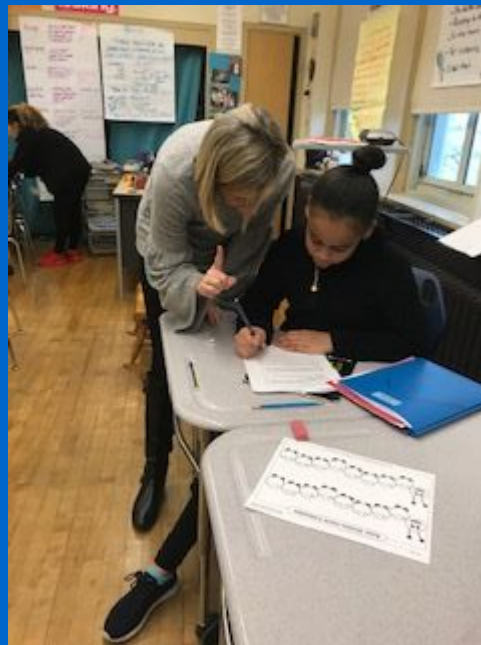
EFA Coaching commenced in the Fall of 2017.

[LINK TO REPORT](#)



THEMES

- ❑ EFA provides opportunities to level the playing field
- ❑ EFA is designed to challenge ideas about who is “smart” and who is not
- ❑ EFA can integrate well into school culture
- ❑ Students enjoy EFA
- ❑ EFA provides high-quality coaching and support



Challenges Specific to EFA Initiative:

- ❑ Communication and collaboration from central office
- ❑ Limited family engagement

NYU's Recommendations to BPS to support EFA programming

- Center the needs of historically marginalized students by increasing teacher diversity in EFA schools, offering additional training on cultural competency, and allocating more resources for emergent bilingual students, immigrant families, and families of color
- Focus on family engagement to best reach historically marginalized families, by incorporating a culturally responsive and sustaining family engagement model.
- Increase coaching and full-time support provided by EFA coaches.
- Improve collaboration between BPS offices and schools to increase uniformity across schools in core academic and EFA offerings.

School Leader Testimonial

Please hear some of our School leaders' testimonials of how
Excellence for All has helped their students



Next Steps - AWC Working Group

The AWC Working Group will make a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding long range policy. This will include a review of EFA, learnings from the program, and the application, if any to AWC. The proposed membership will be follows:

- 2 co-chairs: District designee and Community Representatives
- 4 parents/guardian: 1 AWC, 1 EFA, 1 parent of a student with special needs, 1 parent of an English learner
- 2 students: 1 BSAC, 1 Superintendent's Student Executive Cabinet
- 3 teachers: 1 AWC, 1 EFA, 1 Exam School
- 3 school leaders (AWC, EFA, non-AWC/EFA)

Staff expertise, data and support will be provided by the Academics Division, the Equity, Strategy & Opportunity Gaps Division, and Office of Welcome Services.

APPENDIX

PD & Coaching Highlights 2020-2021:

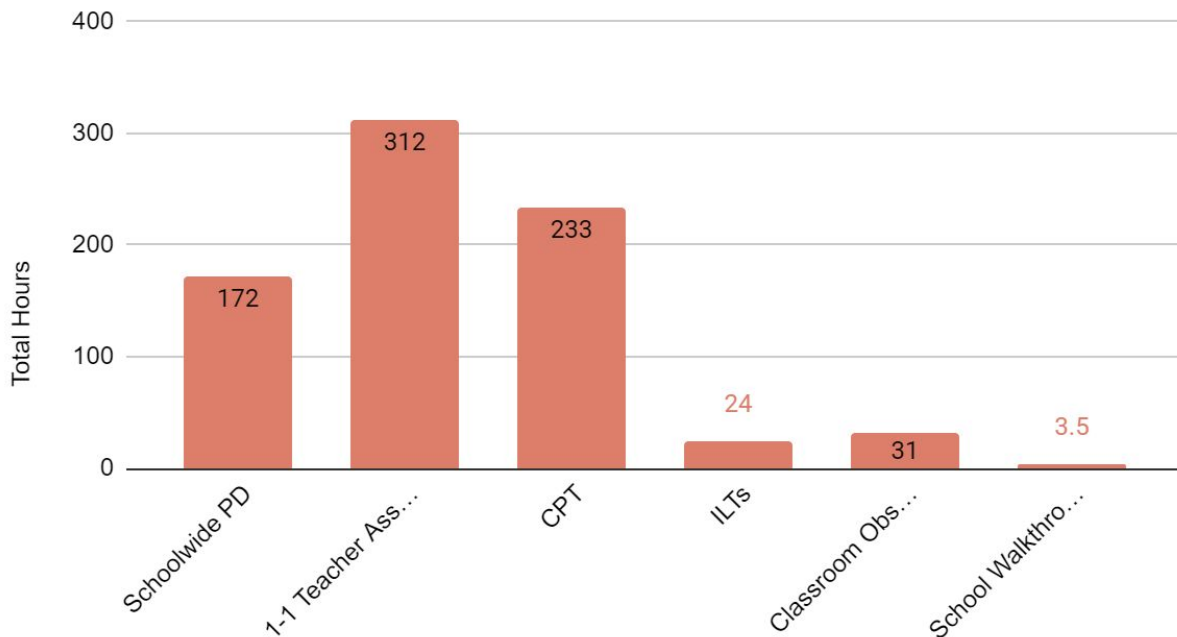
5 EFA Coaches

776 Hours of PD
Provided August
- November 2020

> 70 PD Hrs for
Transformation
Coaches

Hours of PD

PD/Coaching/Teacher Support in EFA & Non-EFA Schools





EFA PD - Subset of Topics

- ❑ Anti-Bias Curriculum
- ❑ CRIOP
- ❑ Implicit Bias/CLSP
- ❑ Coaching for Equity
- ❑ Teaching Writing Remotely
- ❑ Engaging students remotely
- ❑ Introduction to Expeditionary Learning
- ❑ Culturally Responsive Unit Design
- ❑ Longview Planning for Reading
- ❑ Foundations in Reading
- ❑ Longview Planning in Writing (Writing Map)
- ❑ Re-examining School-wide Writing Maps
- ❑ Developing School-side Units and Lesson Planning in writing
- ❑ Systemic Functional Linguistics Grad Courses
- ❑ Math and ELA Interventions
- ❑ Academic Discourse
- ❑ Academic Language
- ❑ Linguistic Racism