



LONG ISLAND REGIONAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION RESOURCE NETWORK



The Long Island Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network at Eastern Suffolk BOCES, in collaboration with the New York State Education Department Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, is pleased to present the:

Long Island Teachers' Institute 2025 *Glob-ELL Perspectives: Embracing Inclusivity through Multilingualism & Multiculturalism*

March 5, 2025 ~ Melville Marriott



WIFI: LITI2025



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Ana Soto for NYSED OBEWL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Long Island RBERN extends its deepest gratitude to the following for their efforts and contributions in making the 2025 Long Island Teachers' Institute possible:

- ❖ Dr. Mariana Gil, Associate, NYSED Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages, which supports the RBERN network
- ❖ Dr. Jasmin Varela, District Superintendent, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- ❖ Dr. Dorina Ebuwa, Ed.D., *B.E.L.I.E.V.E.!*
- ❖ The talented students from the Freeport UFSD *Mariachi Band*, and their dedicated teachers and administrators
- ❖ Our esteemed workshop presenters and facilitators
- ❖ The professional and support staff of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES ENL/Bilingual Programs:
 - *Long Island Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network*
 - *21st Century Community Learning Centers*
- ❖ Participating publishers and exhibitors of Bilingual and ENL materials
- ❖ Artist Ana Soto, who created the original artwork featured on the program cover for NYSED OBEWL
- ❖ Our generous Sponsors:



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- ❖ The Events Staff of the Melville Marriott
- ❖ All of the educators who participated in the 2025 Long Island Teachers' Institute!

Thank You!

INSTITUTE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

7:30 - 8:30 am: Arrival:

On site check in/registration - First Floor

Continental breakfast - Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

Visit publishers & Exhibitors - Second Floor Landing & Corridor

8:30 - 9:05 am: Welcome Remarks: Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

8:30 - 8:45 am Christa Stevenson, Executive Director, LIRBERN

8:45 - 8:50 am Dr. Jasmin Varela, District Superintendent, Eastern Suffolk BOCES

8:50 - 9:05 am NYSED Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages:

Dr. Mariana Gil, Associate of Bilingual Education

9:05 - 10:30 am: Keynote: Dr. Dorina Ebuwa

B.E.L.I.E.V.E. in Glob-ELL Education:

Take "Lens of Life" Teaching to Next Level Learning

10:30 - 10:50 am: Student Performance:

Mariachi Band

Sarafina DeLuca, Music Educator/ Mariachi Director

Atkinson Intermediate School, Freeport UFSD

10:50 - 11:15 am: Visit Publishers & Exhibitors: Second Floor Landing & Corridor

11:15 - 12:00 pm: Luncheon: 1st Floor Atrium

12:10 - 3:00 pm: Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

12:10 - 1:00 pm Afternoon Breakout Session I - 6 concurrent workshops

1:10 - 2:00 pm Afternoon Breakout Session II - 6 concurrent workshops

2:10 - 3:00 pm Afternoon Breakout Session III - 6 concurrent workshops



Scan for Padlet

For more Conference details,
please Scan the QR code
to visit the LITI padlet.



FEATURED SPEAKER DR. DORINA EBUWA

B.E.L.I.E.V.E. in Glob-ELL Education: Take “Lens of Life” Teaching to Next Level Learning

Dr. Dorina Ebuwa is known as The Lab Coat Teacher and affectionately “Miss Dorito” by her students and colleagues from around the world. Dr Dorito holds a B.A. in French and Occitan, the language of the South of France, a Master’s in Applied Linguistics, and Doctorate in Transformative Emotional Intelligence in Teaching. A Top 4 Finalist for National Teacher of the Year and Florida Teacher of the Year, polyglot Dr. Dorito takes her 27-year ESOL/Dual Language/Reading/ ELA K-12 and College classroom experiences, award winning doctoral research on Transformative Emotional Intelligence, and passion for purposeful PD to travel the globe inspiring, motivating, empowering, and elevating educators with professional and personal learning that starts from within. From trainings from the heart, to her authentic and humorous real talk “Keyshops” on reflequity® through “Lens of Life Lessons”, Dorina Ebuwa encourages all to B.E.L.I.E.V.E.!® - Be the Educators who Lead to Inspire and Empower Via Empathy! When not wearing the many hats of an educator, Dorina dons a Stetson and works on her “Franch”, tending to her beloved special needs rescue cows, goats, chickens, ponies, mini donkeys, and barn cat named “Cool Ranch”. Find Dr. Dorito on X @Dorina_BELIEVE, BELIEVE with Dr. Dorito on Facebook or visit her website dorinasackman.com. Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa



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for your
generous support!

The 2025 Long Island Teachers' Institute

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AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

SESSION 1 ~ 12:10-1:00PM

Workshop A: Salons 1 & 2

Effective Teaching Strategies for Speech and Language Impaired ELLs

Audience: Grades K-12 (to age 21)

Presenters: Malina Boylan, Veronica Frullo, Brandi Seda, Dr. Joanie Zangerle, Nassau BOCES

Teaching English Language Learners (ELLs) with Speech-Language Impairments (SLI) requires targeted strategies to address the dual challenges of language acquisition and speech development. This presentation will address culturally responsive teaching practices that respect linguistic and cultural diversity while enhancing language development. Through real-life examples and interactive discussions, participants will gain practical tools to promote academic success and social-emotional well-being for ELLs with SLI. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with actionable strategies and tools to create inclusive, supportive learning environments that help students overcome barriers and thrive in the classroom. Participants will also learn how to foster collaboration between classroom teachers and speech therapists to create cohesive support plans for students.

Workshop B: Salon 3

Bringing Language to Life: Teaching English Learners Through the Content Areas

Audience: Grades K-3

Presenter: Dr. Nancy Lopes, Commack School District

This workshop offers practical strategies to adapt ELA, science, and social studies lessons for English Language Learners, to help ELLs master both academic content and language skills. Drawing on Stephen Krashen's theory of language acquisition, this workshop highlights the idea that students acquire language most effectively when they understand meaningful content. Attendees will learn how to build and activate background knowledge, design engaging lessons, and create shared learning experiences that foster both language development and content mastery. This session is ideal for elementary school teachers across all subjects, as language development is a key responsibility for all educators. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to bring a laptop, as the workshop will also include tips for creating engaging animated Google Slides to enhance lesson delivery. Join us to discover how to bring language to life in your classroom!

Workshop C: Salon 4

AFFIRMing Every Voice: Building Inclusive and Supportive Classrooms for English Language Learners

Audience: Grades 9-12

Presenter: Patricia Christian, Central Islip High School

In today's diverse high school classrooms, creating an inclusive environment for students learning English as a new Language is both a challenge and an opportunity for transformative education. This session, AFFIRMing Every Voice!, offers educators a practical and research-informed approach to cultivating an environment where all students, especially ELLs, feel seen, heard, and valued. Through the AFFIRM framework, participants will learn to Acknowledge Cultural Diversity by integrating students' backgrounds into classroom activities, Foster a Welcoming Environment that encourages participation and belonging, Focus on Language Development with scaffolding techniques and language-acquisition support, and Individualize Instruction to meet diverse learning needs. Emphasis on Recognizing Strengths and Progress will help educators highlight each student's achievements, while Modeling Positive Communication ensures open, respectful interactions that build confidence.

***Refer to Map on Back of Program for Salon Locations**

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

SESSION 1 ~ 12:10-1:00PM

Workshop D: Salons 5 & 6

Restorative Practices in English as a New Language Classrooms: Enhancing SEL, Language, and Connections

Audience: Grades 7-12

Presenters: Melissa Mazzeo & Dr. Jennifer DiMaio & Elizabeth Swinton & Nakeshia Smith-Farnum, Valley Stream Central High School District

In the increasingly diverse landscape of English as a New Language (ENL) classrooms, fostering a sense of community, empathy, and understanding is essential for both social-emotional learning (SEL) and language development. Restorative practices, particularly community-building circles, offer a powerful framework for achieving these goals. This session will explore how integrating restorative circles into the ENL classroom can promote a culture of care, enhance student-teacher connections, and support the social and academic growth of multilingual learners. Attendees will gain practical strategies for implementing restorative circles in their own classrooms, including approaches for integrating SEL objectives, fostering language development, and promoting positive behavior. Additionally, the session will highlight examples of success from ENL classrooms where restorative practices have helped cultivate more inclusive, supportive, and engaged learning environments.

Workshop E: Salons 7 & 8

Debi Tirar Mas Fotos...Resistencia, Cultura y Lenguaje

Audience: K-12

Presenter: Susanne Pena, SMP Education Consulting

This session is inspired by the new Bad Bunny album, “Debi Tirar Más Fotos”. Join me as we take a journey through la música urbana and its impact on culture and language usage. Educators will explore ways to gain insights into the sociocultural experiences of Latinx students and incorporate ideas for enhancing critical consciousness in the classroom.

Workshop F: Salons 9 & 10, 11 & 12

Tuko Pamoja: Creating Key Cartographers for the Collective Cultural, Emotional, and Academic Journey of Multilingual Learners

Audience: Grades K-12

***Featured Presenter:** Dr. Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa

Calling all educational cartographers! Join Dr. Dorito on an empowering, adventure-filled featured session on “mapping the journey” for our Multilingual Learners (MLs). This fun and engaging time with Dr. Dorito combines real talk, research, real teaching techniques and Transformative Emotional Intelligence (TEI), (how’s THAT for alliteration!?) as we harness the power of celebrating the collective culture of creating Global Citizens so our Multilingual Learners may be intrinsically motivated to graduate and thrive! Learn as we discuss teaching practices that create healthy, functioning environments for MLs and the mentors that guide them...YOU! By emphasizing reflection, collaboration, accountability, TLC squared, and powerful interviews with former students, LITI Glob-ELL Educators become the Agents of Change needed to understand our MLs evolving educational and emotional experiences. So, grab your adventure gear and trusty map template and come along for a real life check on Transformative Emotional Intelligence, Radical Self Care, Visions, Values, Non-Negotiables, Setting Boundaries, Flow, Optimal Experience, Joy over Happiness and setting the scene for what our MLs deserve to live their BEST life in AND out of the classroom. Get ready to laugh, learn, share, and be inspired because this session is all about TUKO PAMOJA! That is, if you B.E.L.I.E.V.E.!

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AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

SESSION 2 ~ 1:10-2:00PM

Workshop A: Salons 1 & 2

Writer's Block! Giving ELLs Strategies for Building Sentences

Audience: Grades K-5

Presenter: Nicholas Pei, North Babylon School District

Writer's Block! Giving ELLs Strategies for Building Sentences When given a writing prompt, many students (especially ELLs) do not know where to start and what to write. These writing strategies will help students build sentences, almost like a puzzle, by using question words. For example, the prompt "Write about your summer vacation" can lead to anxiety and confusion for ELLs, but students can think and ask themselves: Where did I go over the summer? When did I go there? Who did I go with? What did I do?, which can lead to..."In August, I went to a beach in Florida with my family and we built sandcastles." This session will introduce teachers to sentence expansion and other writing strategies, which can be embedded into ELA, Science, Social Studies, and even Math. Practicing activities to build sentences enables students to anticipate what a reader needs to know and to provide that information, checks comprehension, teaches note-taking strategies, enables students to craft written language structures, and develops the ability to summarize. The strategies can be embedded into any text and we will give examples using multicultural text.

Workshop B: Salon 3

Student Disability vs. School Inability: The Alarming Increase of ELL Referrals to Special Education

Audience: Grades K-12

Presenter: Priscilla Zárate, Director of ENL Pre-K-12, Port Washington UFSD &

Richard Bellis, Former NYCDOE Executive Director for ELL Compliance Policy & Data Analysis

This session will address the growing issue of disproportionate referrals of English Language Learners (ELLs) to special education services. ELLs often face academic challenges due to linguistic and cultural factors, which are sometimes misinterpreted as disabilities by educators. The presenters will explore national data on special education referrals, highlighting where the numbers are highest and lowest. They will delve into the primary reasons for this over-referral, such as insufficient teacher training on the linguistic and academic needs of ELLs. Participants will also learn six actionable strategies to assess whether their schools or districts are disproportionately referring ELLs to special education. These methods will include utilizing existing data effectively and creating an easy-to-implement at-risk system.

Workshop C: Salon 4

Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Differentiation: Content, Process, Product & Environment

Audience: Grades K-12

Presenter: Melissa Katz, NYC Charter School Center

In this interactive session, we will build both mindset and skillset as it pertains to the conference theme of embracing inclusivity through multilingualism and multiculturalism. We'll explore larger frameworks like Universal Design for Learning and NYSED's Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Framework, as well as pull on research from Zaretta Hammond and Rudine Sims Bishop, to address the mindset around designing learning environments that are responsive to the diverse populations we serve. With those "bigger picture" discussions laying the foundation for the rest of the workshop, we'll then dive into real ways teachers can incorporate these principles into their practice. This "skillset" portion of the workshop will focus on building out teacher toolkits. Time will be dedicated to exploring practical culturally and linguistically responsive strategies and resources for differentiation through content, process, product, and environment, with a special emphasis on making sure our MLL/ELL students have opportunities to see themselves reflected in multiple areas of instruction.

***Refer to Map on Back of Program for Salon Locations**

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

SESSION 2 ~ 1:10-2:00PM

Workshop D: Salons 5 & 6

RamPowering Personalized Learning Pathways: Harnessing Multilingualism to Support Inclusive Education for ELLs

Audience: Grades K-12

Presenter: Dr. Katie DiGregorio & Erin Holtkamp, West Hempstead UFSD

Are you overwhelmed with the amount of data available to determine best practices and strategies for MLLs? Discover how to create personalized learning pathways that celebrate multilingualism! We will explore using assessment data and students' home language to design inclusive, individualized learning plans. Learn strategies for analyzing backgrounds and tailoring instruction to foster language growth. In this session, we will explore the power of personalized learning pathways to enhance language acquisition and academic growth for multilingual learners. We will describe how to then determine scaffolds and modifications to ensure equitable access to content or grade level standards. Participants will learn how to collect and analyze meaningful data, including insights into students' home languages, cultural contexts, and individual learning preferences. Together, we'll showcase strategies for creating supportive learning journeys that honor each student's multilingual identity and foster both language development and academic success. This session is designed for teachers in grades K-12 and see how in our district we are implementing these strategies to support growth in all areas. Through tools such as Book Creator, IXL, Brain Pop and Google Sheets participants will see how to collect data to help design pathways for short and long term success!

Workshop E: Salons 7 & 8

Empowering Language Learners: Practical ENL Strategies for Secondary ELA Classrooms

Audience: Grades 6-12

Presenters: Karen Danca-Smith, Lynbrook High School / Lynbrook UFSD

Experience a fully immersive, dynamic 10th-grade English Language Arts (ELA) lesson centered on George Orwell's nonfiction text "Shooting an Elephant." This comprehensive session is designed to enhance writing and text analysis skills through a variety of engaging, scaffolded activities. Participants will explore strategies that promote 100% student participation, including sentence expansion techniques, plot element identification, and methods that blend technology with traditional pen-and-paper tasks. Tailored to support English language learners while benefiting all students, the workshop demonstrates how rigorous academic standards can be upheld without diluting content. Learn how thoughtful scaffolding ensures active engagement and success for every learner. The lesson focuses on a Secondary English 10 class but includes strategies and activities that can be easily adapted for any content area course requiring writing, reading comprehension, or text analysis.

Workshop F: Salons 9 & 10, 11 & 12

Tuko Pamoja: Creating Key Cartographers for the Collective Cultural, Emotional, and Academic Journey of Multilingual Learners

Audience: Grades K-12

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***Refer to Map on Back of Program for Salon Locations**

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

SESSION 3 ~ 2:10-3:00PM

Workshop A: Salons 1 & 2

Empowering Multilingual Learner Literacy Instruction through Culturally Relevant Children's Literature

Audience: K-12

Presenter: Rene Minnocci, NYC Charter School Center

This session is designed for K-12 educators, literacy coaches, curriculum developers, and administrators working with multilingual learners. It is particularly relevant for those interested in fostering culturally responsive teaching practices and promoting equitable literacy development. This interactive session will explore how to effectively integrate culturally relevant children's literature to enhance literacy instruction for multilingual learners. Drawing from research frameworks such as Funds of Knowledge and Critical Literacy, we will examine how diverse, high-quality texts can bridge language, identity, and literacy skills. Participants will learn how to choose books that reflect the cultural backgrounds, lived experiences, and linguistic assets of their students, while also supporting language development and fostering critical thinking. The session will provide practical strategies for using literature to: build connections between students' home cultures and academic content, promote language acquisition through engaging, authentic texts, foster critical thinking and discussion around cultural and social issues, and support students in seeing themselves as active participants in the learning process. We will explore how to design literacy instruction that values and incorporates students' linguistic and cultural backgrounds, thus promoting a more inclusive and empowering classroom environment.

Workshop B: Salon 3

Embracing Inclusivity through The New York State Seal of Biliteracy

Audience: Grades 7-12

Presenter: Faith Tripp, East Williston School District

We can create school communities that embrace inclusivity through Multilingualism and Multiculturalism by implementing the Seal of Biliteracy (SoBL)! The SoBL began in California as a grassroots movement to promote bilingualism and honor the skills of immigrants. It has expanded to all fifty states; however, districts all over New York still do not offer the SoBL to its graduates. It is time to create school communities that embrace inclusivity through Multilingualism and Multiculturalism by advocating for and implementing the SoBL program! Secondary teachers, guidance counselors, and school and district administrators will walk away with a clear understanding of the value of the SoBL and how to begin a program in their school by unpacking the New York State Seal of Biliteracy Handbook and discussing related topics such as cost, staffing, buy-in, promotion and celebration, and how to include the school community in the process.

Workshop C: Salon 4

Cultivating Connections: Exploring the Benefits of Restorative Practices for English Language Learners

Audience: Grades K-12

Presenter: Stephanie Factor & Naomi Escobar, Bellport High School/South Country School District

This presentation explores the implementation of restorative practices to support English Language Learner (ELL) students, fostering an inclusive and positive educational environment, and draws on current research that highlights the effectiveness of restorative practices in reducing disciplinary actions and enhancing student engagement. By emphasizing relationship-building and community, restorative practices are essential for ELL students who may face cultural and linguistic challenges. Participants will learn to integrate strategies such as restorative circles and peer mediation to create a supportive framework that promotes ELL students' social and academic success.

***Refer to Map on Back of Program for Salon Locations**

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

SESSION 3 ~ 2:10-3:00PM

Workshop D: Salons 5 & 6

Cultivating Language Growth: Research-Based Strategies for Secondary Multilingual Learners

Audience: Grades 6-12

Presenter: Tracey Zlto, Bethpage UFSD

Join us for an engaging workshop that delves into practical, research-based strategies designed to support the language and academic development of secondary Multilingual Learners (MLLs). Participants will explore effective methods for integrating content and language instruction, scaffolding lessons, and fostering collaborative learning environments. This session will emphasize the unique challenges faced by MLLs in grades 6-12 and provide actionable tools to help close achievement gaps and promote MLL success. Attendees will leave equipped with differentiated instructional strategies, including ways to activate prior knowledge and enhance student engagement. Discover practical, research-based strategies to support the language and academic development of your secondary Multilingual Learners. Explore methods for integrating content and language instruction, scaffolding lessons, and fostering collaborative learning. Leave with tools to close achievement gaps and ensure MLL success.

Workshop E: Salons 7 & 8

Connecting Worlds: Thematic Units for English as a New Language in Special Education Classrooms

Audience: Grades 6-8

Presenter: James Wolf & Bryton LaMantia, Lynbrook School District

This session will provide teachers with actionable tools, resources, and examples of successful thematic units that foster academic and language growth for ENL students in special education settings. Attendees will gain insight into using visuals, hands-on activities, and scaffolding techniques to promote comprehension and language development. Emphasis will be placed on differentiated instruction, sensory engagement, and creating an inclusive classroom environment where all students feel empowered to participate. Whether you're new to this approach or looking to refine your practice, this session will offer strategies to enhance your students' educational experience.

Workshop F: Salons 9 & 10, 11 & 12

Tuko Pamoja: Creating Key Cartographers for the Collective Cultural, Emotional, and Academic Journey of Multilingual Learners

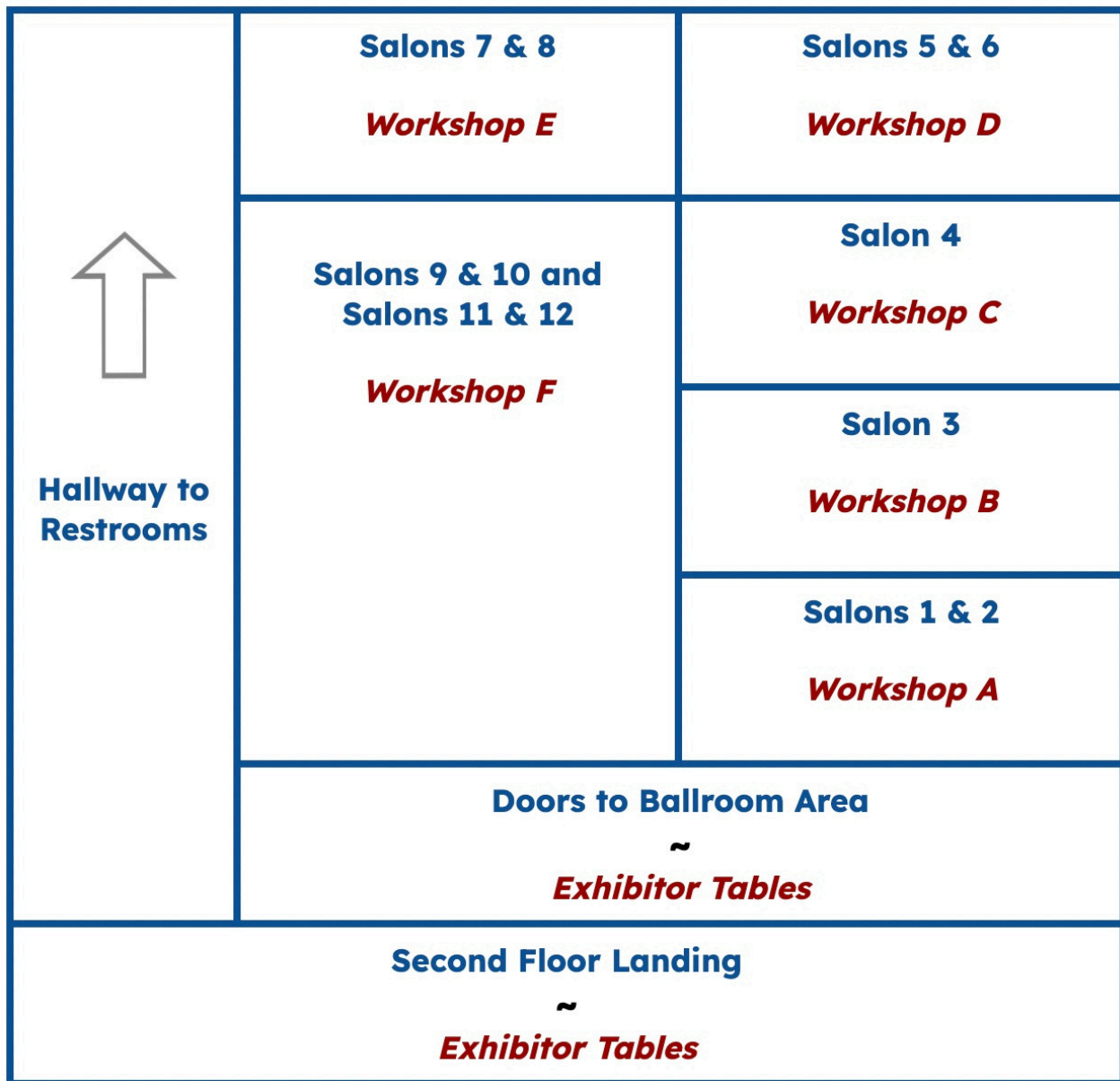
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WORKSHOP LOCATIONS



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#LITI2025.**

**Please complete our
Conference Evaluation.**

LONG ISLAND
REGIONAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION
RESOURCE NETWORK

**Save the date:
#LITI2026
March 4, 2026**

