



Arizona Department of Education
Unique Populations

December 18, 2020

Dear Superintendents, Directors, and Coordinators:

It's hard to believe that half a school year has gone by so quickly and that 2020 is coming to an end. My wish for all of you as you gear up for your very well-deserved winter break is that you have an opportunity to practice self-care, spend time with immediate family and reenergize.

With many LEAs transitioning back to full distance learning, and the continued challenge of student attendance, the following resources might be helpful in your efforts to engage as many students as possible. I hope you will find them of value, as you continue to work tirelessly to meet the needs of all your students.

[English Learner Attendance Resource](#)
[High-Quality Instruction for English Learners 2020](#)

OELAS also continues to offer virtual training opportunities to educators around the new ELP Standards, AZ's Language Development Approach and Teaching Reading Effectively to English Learners. For more information read our [OELAS Professional Learning Opportunities December 2020](#). Be sure to also register for our next Virtual Practitioners of Unique Populations Meeting (previously known as PELL) to be held on January 28, 2021. Additionally, our colleagues in the Migrant Education Program will be hosting their semi-annual MEP Bootcamp on February 19, 2021. Visit the Migrant website at www.azed.gov/migrant for more information as it becomes available. In the meantime, please save the date for this event.

Please continue to reach out to your Education Program Specialist or myself with any questions you have. Have a wonderful holiday and stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Melissa Castillo, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent
High Academic Standards for Students
Arizona Department of Education