



Jenny Leroux  
District ELD Program Facilitator

jenny.leroux@district196.org  
P: 651-423-0608

To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to write a letter recommending the School-Wide English Learning (SWEL) workshops offered through TESOL International.

Our district, in Minnesota's Twin Cities metro area, includes 2,500 students identified as English learners and about twice as many students whose families are multilingual. We are committed to building the capacity of all teachers to effectively instruct multilingual learners, and in order to do so are investing in the SWEL peer coaching model and training to position English Language Development (ELD) teachers to be site-based instructional leaders at their schools. Our goal is to have one SWEL-trained coach at each of our schools by the end of the 2023-24 school year. Six ELD teachers completed the SWEL certificate series in an in-person training last summer, and 25 ELD teachers are currently participating the SWEL Global Cohort workshop series online. As a program leader, I have participated in all of the training as well as garnered feedback from participants, and am thus qualified to provide a recommendation.

Our ELD teachers believe in the potential in a collegial coaching model, but expressed concern about their ability to coach and deliver professional development – skills that are rarely part of pre-service teaching programs. The SWEL workshops are helping them gain knowledge and skills necessary to be effective coaches, as well as confidence in their abilities as teacher leaders. Teachers participating in the workshops have reflected that they feel the workshops are valuable and they are able to apply learning in both their instructional and coaching roles. They are especially excited about the professional development ideas they are learning in Workshop 2 and considering how to apply them at their buildings.

Our SWEL coaches-in-training have already begun coaching, and we have received survey feedback from a number of classroom and content teachers who are engaging in SWEL coaching. All of the current respondents agree or strongly agree that since working with a SWEL coach they feel more prepared to work with multilingual learners, and have more strategies and tools to support multilingual learners in their classrooms. One classroom teacher reported,

*“Working with a SWEL coach has been incredibly helpful in planning language arts, literacy, Reader's Workshop, and Writer's Workshop. It has been wonderful having this opportunity to partner with our SWEL coach to plan content objectives and language objectives, learn new ideas for teaching approaches and strategies, and design and develop lessons that support not only our multilingual learners, but all of our learners.”*

I recommend SWEL training as a resource to create successful ELD coaching partners. We believe in the potential of SWEL coaching to lead to optimum learning environments for our multilingual learners.

Please contact me with any questions,

Jenny Leroux

DISTRICT196.ORG

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools 3455 153rd  
Street West • Rosemount, MN 55068  
651-423-7700