

PREPARATORY QUESTIONS FOR STATE TEAMS

During our trip to Austin, in addition to learning from presenters and hosts, you will have an opportunity to engage in an introductory session of sharing information, as well as a special session of peer-to-peer learning with your colleagues from a variety of states. Participants have been invited from Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Illinois, and Virginia. During these exchanges we would like you to share about initiatives, progress and challenges in your state. **Prior to the trip**, please get together with your fellow team members, via email or telephone, and discuss the following questions, so that you are prepared to talk about these issues during the trip, as well as follow up on them after the trip. For your reference, the contact information for all participants is located on the Participant List document located at the end of this document.

1. What are the main state-level English Language Learner policies in your state?
2. Who are the primary entities/individuals leading the ELL policy efforts in your state? How coordinated are the efforts of various entities?
3. How are ELLs classified in your state, and how does the state assess their language proficiency and academic levels?
4. What are the challenges you are currently facing in preparing your ELL population for college and career readiness?
5. In Austin, we'll hear from a variety of stakeholders working to support English Language Learners: the Deputy Commissioner of Statewide Policy and Programs, a State Senator, Texas Education Agency staff, Austin Independent School District staff, higher education leaders, as well as principals, teachers and students. What are some of the questions you are eager to address to them?
6. How, and with whom, do you envisage sharing the information you'll learn about on the trip back in your home state?