

November 25, 2025: 3-4 pm

Learning from older refugee-background youth settled in schools in rural areas

Norine Verberg, Senior Research Professor, St. Francis Xavier University

Due to pre- and post-migration factors, older refugee-background youth (ORBY) resettled by a host country will navigate significant challenges to complete high school and access post-secondary studies. Drawing primarily from interviews with ORBY who resume their education in rural schools in Nova Scotia, this webinar reports study findings on how newcomer students navigate/d using EAL and educational supports in the school and community, and the significance of making peers connections and/or participating in sport.

December 10, 2025: 3-4 pm

CLB & Beyond: Guiding Newcomer Youth Toward Education and Careers

Olga Sarycheva, Coordinator of Language Assessments, CCNB Language Assessment Centre - Nova Scotia and Gary Griffiths, Supervisor, Language Services, Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)

Learn more about the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) and how results from this assessment can guide conversations with high school newcomers (16-21 years old) on careers or other plans. CCNB Language Assessment Centre - Nova Scotia will provide an overview of their services from the perspective of young adults (16 years and older). CCNB Language Assessment Centre - Nova Scotia is a licensed Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Assessment (CLBPA) and Canadian Language Benchmarks Literacy Placement Assessment (CLB-LPT) assessment centre with the head office in Halifax and four itinerant assessment sites across Nova Scotia. They have a team of certified and experienced language assessors and language education counsellors who, using the Canadian Language Benchmarks, help newcomers find out what they can do in English and provide up-to-date information about English language classes. A representative from ISANS will also attend and talk about their summer English class offerings. ISANS offers in-person and online options for those outside Halifax Regional Municipality. ISANS will provide an overview of these classes during the webinar and share how newcomer students can benefit from knowing their CLB scores in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

January 26, 2026: 3-4 pm

Using AI to Simplify, Scaffold, and Differentiate for EAL Learners

Lori Stafford, EAL Consultant P-9, Halifax Regional Centre for Education

Discover how AI can transform your teaching practice by simplifying language, generating scaffolds, and creating differentiated resources that make learning accessible for every student. This session will demonstrate how AI can support lesson planning, enhance engagement, and foster inclusion. Participants will learn practical ways to use AI tools to design equitable, student-centered learning experiences that meet the diverse needs of EAL learners and all students.

February 10, 2026: 3-4 pm

Programming Strategies for Early Literacy English Language Learners

Krissy Brewer, EAL Teacher, Halifax Regional Centre for Education

Designing learning experiences that are inclusive for EAL students with early-level literacy skills is extremely challenging in secondary classrooms. This workshop provides strategies and starting points for teachers to develop language-rich lessons that accelerate the decoding skills and language acquisition of their multilingual learners. Age-appropriate resources, ideas for task-based learning, and language for authentic purposes will be discussed. Teachers will have an opportunity to informally share their successes and challenges with supporting EAL learners in their classroom context; classroom and support teachers know their students and curriculum best and excel at troubleshooting with creative solutions.

March 9, 2026: 3-4 pm

Phonics Instruction for High School EAL Students

Allison Stewart, EAL Teacher, Halifax Regional Centre for Education

The University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI)'s Foundations, an explicit and systematic phonics program, may have been designed for lower elementary reading instruction, but it is also a useful tool for delivering reading intervention at the secondary level. UFLI Foundations and its use in HRCE's locally developed English as an Additional Language courses (EAL Literacy 10, EAL Academic Language 10, and EAL 10) will be discussed in this workshop, as well as suggested supplemental resources. Participants are encouraged to bring ideas and/or resources to share.

April 8, 2026: 3-4 pm

Effective Strategies for Teaching EAL Students of Diverse Backgrounds

Dr. Amna Mirza, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Mount Saint Vincent University

English as an Additional (EAL) students of all ages come from a wide array of diverse backgrounds, each bringing with them unique experiences and challenges. This is especially true for those arriving with interrupted schooling or no formal schooling, resulting in low literacy skills and a significant gap in fundamental knowledge essential for language acquisition. This online webinar will present evidence-based information and innovative techniques specifically designed to address the complex needs of these students, helping teachers strengthen their students' language abilities and literacy skills through targeted, informed instruction.