



# Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone: 307-777-7673 Fax: 307-777-6234 Website: [edu.wyoming.gov](http://edu.wyoming.gov)

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-157

**TO:** Superintendents  
Title III Directors  
Principals

**FROM:** Robin Holbrook, EL Assessment Consultant  
Standards, Assessment and Learning Team Division

**DATE:** December 13, 2011

**SUBJECT:** World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) CLIMBS course (Content & Language Integration as a Means of Bridging Success)

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### TIME SENSITIVE

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is providing five days of professional development opportunities for English Language (EL) specialists and general education teachers to work collaboratively using the WIDA standards. This course develops a school-based team to support the EL child toward mastery of content and academic language. CLIMBS will be taught by WIDA certified trainers and will take place on the following locations and dates:

Rawlins Hampton Inn 307-324-2320	Rock Springs Hampton Inn 307-382-9222
January 14, February 25, April 21	February 4, March 17

A block of rooms is being held at each location. Please contact the hotel to reserve your room and mention WDE to get the block rate.

**Registration Information:** To register for the course, click on the link below or copy/paste it into your web browser address bar.

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22D2JMFYE7B>

If you have further questions, please contact Robin Holbrook at [robin.holbrook@wyo.gov](mailto:robin.holbrook@wyo.gov) or 307-777-5217.

RH:al

Attachments: Letters to Principals  
CLIMBS Brochure WY

TO: Principals

RE: CLIMBS Course—Content and Language Integration as a Means of Bridging Success

The purpose of this email is to inform you of an opportunity for your English Language (EL) specialist and general education teachers to work collaboratively using the WIDA standards. This is a course that develops a school-based team to support the EL child toward mastery of content and academic language.

This course will be offered over five Saturdays starting January 14, 2012. The course schedule is as follows:

**Day One (9:30 – 5:00): Online Technology, Foundations, Collaboration (01/14/12)—Rawlins**

**Day Two (9:30 – 5:00): Building Schema (02/04/12)—Rock Springs**

**Day Three (9:30 -5:00): Instructional Planning (02/25/12)—Rawlins**

**Day Four (9:30 – 5:00): Lesson Delivery (03/17/12) –Rock Springs**

**Day Five (9:30 – 5:00): Assessment (04/21/12)—Rawlins**

Cost: There is no charge for the course, but there is a fee of \$155.00 per participant for course materials. This fee can be covered by Title I, IID or III funds.

Requirement: This course requires team collaboration such as the classroom teacher, the EL teacher and other personnel that work with EL students. This course is an excellent opportunity for classroom teachers to become familiar with the WIDA ELP standards with the EL teacher as the expert leading and guiding the team. This course is limited to 25 participants only.

School districts should decide if they will be purchasing course materials or if participants will be responsible for obtaining materials. Materials can be purchased through WIDA at:

<https://www.wceps.org/store/wida/#>

The following CLIMBS Course textbook should be purchased online to allow for site-based flexibility and economic savings.

- Rothenberg, C. & Fisher, D. (2007). *Teaching English language learners: A differentiated approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Participants can earn either UW Credit or PTSB credit.

Please distribute the attached flier to teams of interested personnel.

Melissa Alderman

[malderman@crb1.k12.wy.us](mailto:malderman@crb1.k12.wy.us)

(307)328-9255

# The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Presents C.L.I.M.B.S.\*

## *\*CONTENT & LANGUAGE INTEGRATION AS AS A MEANS OF BRIDGING SUCCESS*

- CLIMBS is a professional development opportunity for EL/classroom teacher teams.
- CLIMBS was developed by the WIDA consortium housed at the University of Wisconsin, which also created ACCESS for ELLs®, the assessment instrument now used by 27 states for EL students.
- This is a course that develops a school-based team to support the EL child toward mastery of content and language, focusing on integration of the two in the regular classroom.
- Course modules will be spread across five live workshops. Participants will also interact through on-line chats, postings, and activities between meetings.

Day One: Online Technology, Foundations, Collaboration (01/14/12)—Rawlins

Day Two: Building Schema (02/04/12)—Rock Springs

Day Three: Instructional Planning (02/25/12)—Rawlins

Day Four: Lesson Delivery (03/17/12) –Rock Springs

Day Five: Assessment (04/21/12)--Rawlins

\*NOTE: In an effective instructional/assessment cycle, instruction is based on assessment, which in turn is then the focus for instruction. This is called "the effectiveness loop." Thus, topics covered on days two, three, four, and five will actually be woven through each workshop, as part of the loop.

WHO: This staff development opportunity is open to any school in your district. WIDA CLIMBS operates on the team concept. Ideally, there would be at least two teachers and one administrator in a school group. Class size is limited to twenty five participants. Enrollment is on a first come first serve basis.

**PARTICIPANTS must commit to attend all classes, complete reflections, participate in discussions and activities on line and in class.**

BOTTOM LINE: You can work smarter, not harder, with this team approach that TIES instruction to formative and summative assessment in CONTENT and LANGUAGE based on the language level of the child, the particular content, and the grade level.

**OBJECTIVES:** This 40-hour professional development opportunity will teach the participants to develop school-based teams composed of EL and content area teachers. These teams will then use the WIDA standards, formative and summative instruction, and assessment to plan content lessons. These lessons will use appropriate strategies and best practice based on language and grade level. They will also integrate content and language to support teaching and learning for the English language learner. The EL and content area teams will be able to serve as instructional leaders in their schools.

**WHY:** Research on best practices and effective strategies for teaching EL students tells us that a coordinated, collaborative team approach between the classroom teacher, the EL teacher and other personnel provides a better opportunity for learner success. By bringing content/EL teacher teams together, we are developing a cadre of trained teachers as instructional leaders across our state.

**WHEN:** This "hybrid" (half on-line, half face-to-face) course will meet on FIVE Saturdays, alternating between Rock Springs and Rawlins, WY, with an ongoing online component. Before the course begins you will be given information on how to access the online portion of the course.

**WHERE:** Rock Springs, Rawlins, and online.

**COST:** Books and technology fee: \$155.00. Districts may opt to cover this cost. School districts should decide if they will be purchasing course materials or if participants will be responsible for obtaining materials. Materials can be purchased through WIDA at: <https://www.wceps.org/store/wida/#>

The following CLIMBS Course textbook should be purchased online at the retailer of your choice to allow for site-based flexibility and economic savings:

- Rothenberg, C. & Fisher, D. (2007). *Teaching English language learners: A differentiated approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

**CREDIT:** You may take this staff development for 3 hours of graduate credit through the University of Wyoming (UW). You would enroll as a "graduate special student" and pay the regular UW graduate tuition. The graduate course requires additional work. You would NOT be asked to meet more than the FIVE Saturdays, though one of the requirements will be an additional project assignment. PTSB credit will also be offered.

**FACULTY:** Melissa Alderman: Florida International University, Miami, FL Master of Science in Education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Carbon County School District #1 District ESL & G/T Director, and WIDA CLIMBS course trainer.

Jenna Min Shim, Ph.D.: Assistant Professor/Director of ESL Program, College of Education, Department of Educational Studies, University of Wyoming. WIDA CLIMBS course trainer.

**Deadline for enrollment: January 2, 2012**

Questions: Contact Robin Holbrook, [robin.holbrook@wyo.gov](mailto:robin.holbrook@wyo.gov)