



## Educator Supports Center of Excellence Update

Strengthening local school districts and educators by providing professional learning, consulting, coaching, and educational resources

**Month:** February 2026

**Administrator:** Stephanie Brown / Mindy Miller

**Update:** Educator Supports - Social Studies & Multilingual Update

### **Social Studies**

Educator Supports Social Studies strengthens evidence-based instruction across the Greater Kalamazoo Region to ensure all students access rigorous, inquiry-driven learning. Core priorities include skill development, content knowledge, and disciplinary literacy.

### **Targeted Professional Learning, Coaching, & Consulting**

Educator Supports Social Studies provides direct instructional support and coaching to several districts, including Parchment, Portage, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, KRESA CCC, Kalamazoo, and Berrien Springs. Further, KRESA provides consulting services to Parchment, Portage, Galesburg-Augusta, the Juvenile Home, Berrien Springs, & Comstock.

- **Instructional Frameworks:** Training centers on the C3 Framework, inquiry-based learning, and productive academic discourse.
- **Inquiry By Design:** New K–12 educator cohorts are learning to design and implement inquiry-based lessons, supported through a partnership with Dr. Linda Doornbos of the Michigan Council for the Social Studies and Oakland University.
- **Full-Contact History:** The Full Contact History workshop at Tillers International immersed educators in hands-on historical craftwork—such as blacksmithing and woodworking—while applying the Inquiry Arc. Participants created classroom-ready “20 Questions Artifact” toolkits and experienced how experiential projects deepen engagement and critical thinking.
- **Student-Centered Focus:** Professional learning emphasizes questioning strategies and reflective practice to drive student learning.
- **K-5 Integration - Enhancing Literacy through Social Studies:** KRESA supports K–5 teachers in integrating social studies within existing literacy programs, helping them move beyond comprehension and fluency to build content knowledge and contextual understanding.
- **Curriculum Innovation & Advocacy:** Through needs assessments, expert review, and adoption processes, KRESA ensures districts have access to high-quality, vetted materials that promote consistent, rigorous instruction.
- **Regional Leadership & Collaboration:** Educator Supports Social Studies serves as a hub for excellence across the Southwest Michigan region and the State through the development and implementation of the **Social Studies Summit**, **The SW Michigan Social Studies Network**, and **county-wide collaborations**.



**Multilingual Learners (ML)**

This year's work has centered on building county-wide capacity to support multilingual learners, both within KRESA programs and across partner districts. Through targeted collaboration and professional learning, we are breaking down silos and creating more cohesive, comprehensive support for multilingual learners in classrooms:

- Professional development for paraprofessionals on strategies and supports for ML students in the classroom
- Partnership with ML coaches at Kalamazoo Public Schools to enhance co-teaching efforts, and learning for ML teachers around the WIDA English Language Development Standards
- Personalized in-district professional development for teachers at Comstock, Parchment, and Kalamazoo Public Schools
- Comprehensive review of processes to identify suspected disabilities for students that are Multilingual Learners with the Eastern Service Area Special Education district teams
- Targeted networking of ML educators through the EL Collaborative to build capacity through shared learning, lesson sharing, and opportunities for support from like districts/roles
- A year-long professional development series building capacity and partnerships with content area and ML teachers to support co-teaching, including a proposal submission to co-present with KPS ML Coaches at Michigan Association for Bilingual Educators (MABE) Conference in May
- Collaboration with Calhoun ISD and St. Joseph ISD as a part of the EL Consortium of Southwest Michigan
- Integration of Career Champions work with initiatives in districts to support career development for MLs that includes strategically recruiting and welcoming ML families at the upcoming Career Connect Open House in February

As we continue strengthening practice and building knowledge with all stakeholders, not just EL educators, we are able to continue to go deeper in our learning and create comprehensive systems and classrooms that support English Learners across the county and beyond.