

**“The SEAL model has been *deeply effective* in preparing students for academic success, by developing the high-level cognitive, language and literacy skills that are integral to the Common Core State Standards.”**



**Jan Christensen**  
*Redwood City School District Superintendent*

**“SEAL is proving both replicable and sustainable—and our School Board sees its value.”**

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**Teachers need both training and resources to help their Spanish-speaking ELL students develop the language and literacy skills they need to succeed.**

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More than 25% of the students entering public school in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are English learners—the vast majority of these children are Hispanic. Facing a daunting achievement gap, these children encounter higher drop out rates: up to eight times those of non-Hispanic white students in some districts in Silicon Valley.

SEAL was developed by Dr. Laurie Olsen, a leading expert in English-language learner education. It is a comprehensive model of enriched language and literacy education, for both English-only and English Learner students in preschool through Grade 3 classrooms. SEAL provides intensive

professional development to teachers through workshops, coaching, and opportunities for collaborative planning and reflection. The model produces powerful language skills through hands-on science and social studies based thematic units addressing the new Common Core Standards. Leadership development and technical assistance to district and site administrators builds coherent research-based programs, and facilitates articulation across grade levels and consistency across schools. And, SEAL supports parents to develop language and literacy practices with their children at home and in the classroom.

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**Despite starting school with language and academic skills behind their peers, SEAL students catch up or surpass peers on all measures.**

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## **SEAL Outcomes**

Dr. Kathryn Lindholm-Leary, Professor Emeritus in the College of Education at San Jose State University and a nationally recognized researcher on dual language education, has conducted an external evaluation of SEAL. The evaluation captures data on each student who enrolls in a SEAL classroom, and follows those students longitudinally as they progress through the grade levels, to analyze growth in language development and academic achievement.

**The evaluation shows highly significant impact on language, literacy, cognition, and family literacy\*:**

- SEAL students entered with very low levels of language proficiency as compared to district, state and EL comparison groups.
- All cohorts of SEAL schools surpassed state targets that ensure English learners are making progress towards proficiency.

### **By the end of 2nd grade:**

- 2/3 of SEAL students closed the language and literacy gap to the average of their peers.
- Students in bilingual SEAL programs score higher in both English and math than similar students in English-only programs.
- While 85% of SEAL parents have a high school education or less, they are just as likely as college-educated parents to engage in literacy-related activities with their children.

*\* Analysis of CELDT, DRDP-R, Pre-LAS and LAS, CST, and STS test results*