# **Multilingual Learning** Research Center



## Introducing the MRLC School Network





The MLRC is a research center based at the top-ranked School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We collaborate with scholars and schools around the world with a focus on equity and innovation to improve outcomes for multilingual learners.





## The MLRC School Network



## 200+ schools in 60+ countries



# Research activities to support school improvement

Engage with current and relevant research on teaching MLs

Access to the entire UW-Madison library online collection Training and support for action research

Opportunities to codesign, co-write and co-present research

Opportunities to collaborate in current research studies

Research-based program review Connections with glocal scholars



## **Key Research Focus Areas**





## **MLRC School Network Hub**



- Online resources for professional learning
- Every teacher at MLRC member schools can have a Hub account
- ✓ 3 Research Topics
  - DIY workshops
- WIDA Toolkit
- **Action Research tools**







## **Action Research**



A type of research conducted **by practitioners** within their **own context**, focused on **local innovation** or a specific **problem of practice** and resulting in an **action plan**.



# MLRC Support for Action Research

## **Research Symposium**

Learn about research on teaching multilingual

learners

2 Days In Person

Learn about the process of doing research

#### **Hub & Monthly Meetups**

Coaching and support for schoolbased action research projects



#### 4 months Online



## 2025-2026 MLRC Research Symposia



Panama City, Panama November 15-16, 2025 Beijing, China December 6-7, 2025 *Collaborate.* Connect with other schools & global scholars



**Discover.** Engage with the latest research

*Transform.* Create an action research plan

Malaga, Spain January 17-18, 2026 Manila, Philippines January 24-25, 2026



## **Impact: School Improvement**



## Similar Multilingual Learning Research Center

## **Impact: Teacher Learning**



Team building: Shared purpose around a common goal or problem of practice

**Collective efficacy:** Confidence and competence to lead change





**The MLRC Program Review:** *A comprehensive analysis of programs serving multilingual learners* 



- Created by a team of global researchers and reviewed by international experts
- Grounded in current research and existing evaluation frameworks
- Provides formative feedback, including relevant and actionable data and recommendations to improve programs serving multilingual learners
- Complements strategic planning and accreditation processes for continuous improvement



## The MLRC team





Esther Bettney Heidt

MLRC School Network Researcher

#### Jon Nordmeyer

*MLRC School Network Director* 



#### Sarah Ferrier

MLRC School Network Coordinator



#### **Allison Monday**

Program Manager, Wisconsin Center for Education Research



## How can our school get involved?



- ✓ Join the MLRC School Network
- ✓ Engage with the MLRC Online Research Hub
- ✓ Send a team to a Research Symposium
- ✓ Present or publish your work!