



mlrc

Multilingual Learning
Research Center

NEASC

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

**MLRC Research Symposium
NEASC Cohort
2026-2027**

- Our Team
- MLRC School Network
- NEASC & the ACE Protocol
- Connecting research to practice
- The MLRC Research Symposium
NEASC Cohort
- Logistics and Important Dates
- Q & A



Note: This webinar will be recorded and we will send slides to all interested schools



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



150+ schools in 60+ countries

A global **research–practice partnership** dedicated to excellence and equity for multilingual learners. We explore challenges and co-create impactful solutions through **access, improvement, action** and **insights**.

Access

Research-based tools for professional learning *to build knowledge and skills in teaching MLs*

Improvement

Collaborative inquiry *to identify assets, provide feedback and set school goals for serving MLs*

Action

School-based action research, implementation and dissemination *to build collective efficacy*

Insights

Shared investigation across schools *to create new knowledge about teaching MLs*

A Unique Opportunity: Where ACE Learning Principles Meet Action Research

ACE LEARNING PRINCIPLES

Structures for School-Wide Improvement

- ◆ 10 Learning Principles as a coherent framework
- ◆ Evidence of Impact guiding school decisions
- ◆ Collaborative Internal Reflection process
- ◆ Major Learning Plans driving sustained change



The Convergence

- Sustained culture of action research
- Teacher & leadership capacity growth
- Improved learning outcomes
- School-to-school collaborative learning

A unique opportunity
for every school in the cohort

ML RESEARCH FOCUS (MLRC)

Practitioner-Led Multilingual Action Research

- ◆ Context-specific problems of practice for MLs
- ◆ Teacher self-efficacy & collective leadership
- ◆ Structured, practitioner-led research design
- ◆ 150+ international schools in research network

Learning Principle 5: Learner Engagement & Autonomy — Voice, Choice & Self-Direction



ACE LP5 Core Principle

Autonomy

- Goal-oriented autonomy over learning
- Resilient, self-efficacious learners
- Voice & choice in what, how, and how to demonstrate learning
- Self-initiated exploration & discovery
- Teacher as coach & co-creator of learning



The Connecting Bridge

Learner Agency

- (ML) learners direct their own inquiry pathways
- Student-led evidence gathering
- Teachers co-design research with ML students
- Inquiry cycle mirrors action research model
- Resilience built through iterative reflection

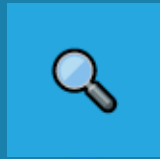


ML Action Research Pilot

In Practice

- ML students co-design research questions
- Student voice integrated into evidence collection
- Learner self-reflection at each meetup
- Capstone as authentic learner performance task
- Builds teacher efficacy as co-learner

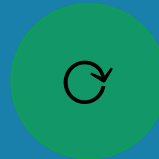
Learning Principle 6 Research, Reflection & Action — A Natural Partnership



ACE LP6 Core Principle

Research

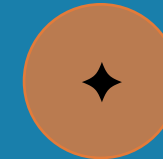
- Apply current research to improve learning
- Connect with other learning communities globally
- Use future-oriented & design thinking
- Evaluate results & pursue innovation
- Build distributive leadership for inquiry



The Connecting Bridge

Shared Cycle

- Study → Design → Act → Reflect
- Evidence-based improvement
- Collaborative reflection & revision
- Stakeholder feedback loops
- Context-specific problems of practice



ML Action Research Pilot

In Practice

- Teacher-designed inquiry projects
- Structured peer learning cohort
- Evidence collection & analysis
- Capstone presentation of findings
- School-to-school collaboration

Learning Principle 7: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Belonging — All Means All



ACE LP7 Core Principle

Inclusion

- Equitable access to learning for all
- Culture of physical & emotional safety
- Curriculum rich with issues of equity & justice
- Proactive reform of policies & practices
- All members feel they belong



The Connecting Bridge

Equity Lens

- (ML) learners are centered in research design
- Inquiry examines systemic barriers to (ML) success
- Cultural humility embedded in reflective practice
- Diverse identities & perspectives valued as assets
- Accountability for impact on marginalized learners



ML Action Research Pilot

In Practice

- Research questions address ML equity gaps
- Interdisciplinary teams include EAL/ML specialists
- Evidence tracks belonging & identity outcomes
- Cohort shares strategies across diverse contexts
- Findings presented at international forum, April 2027

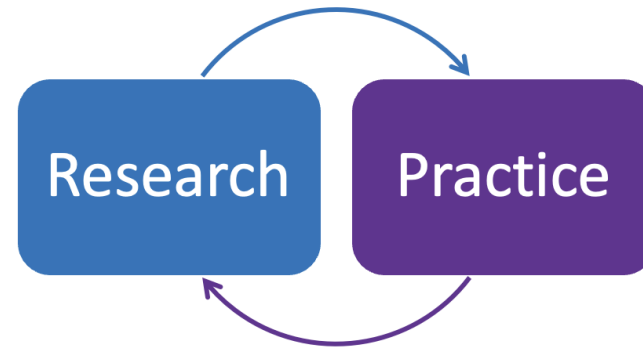
Why (not) Research?



- **Only 1/3 of teachers regularly engage with research**
- **Research is either not accessible or relevant to practice**
- **Researchers are often disconnected from classrooms**

(Monash University, 2024)

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**.

Impact: Action Research



“Research has become more accessible to me. It seemed daunting before this process.”

“I think it absolutely empowered me to...I guess, see myself as a researcher, or potential researcher.”

“My interest is to help understand challenges, new practices in learning and navigate solutions through action research.”

Project Goals:

Support school-based teams to

Design and implement an action research project focused on multilingual learners

Use tools of systematic inquiry to explore a problem of practice or innovation to scale up

Build collective efficacy by connecting research insights with local evidence

Complement the ACE Learning protocol by both deepening and documenting reflective learning

MLRC Research Symposium - NEASC Cohort

- Up to 20 NEASC schools
- 3-5 member interdisciplinary teams (at least one leader)
- Schools work collaboratively as a cohort, sharing learning and evidence across contexts.



- **IB World School**
- **Unique boarding school campus**
- **State-of-the-art infrastructure for research-based learning**





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NEASC

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
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Oct 29 – Nov 1: Louisenlund, Germany

**Build on the
NEASC
ACE
Protocol**

**Learn about research on teaching
multilingual learners**

**Learn about the process of doing
research**

**Design &
launch
action
research
projects**

Research Symposium
Oct 29 – Nov 1

Action Research Support
Nov - Apr

Your team's action research journey



**Design &
launch
action
research
projects**



Monthly Zoom sessions & Asynchronous
support

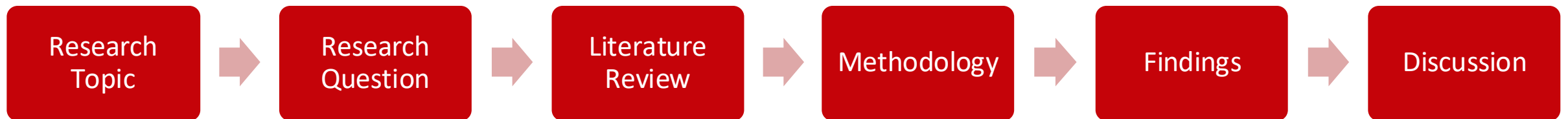


Capstone
Report



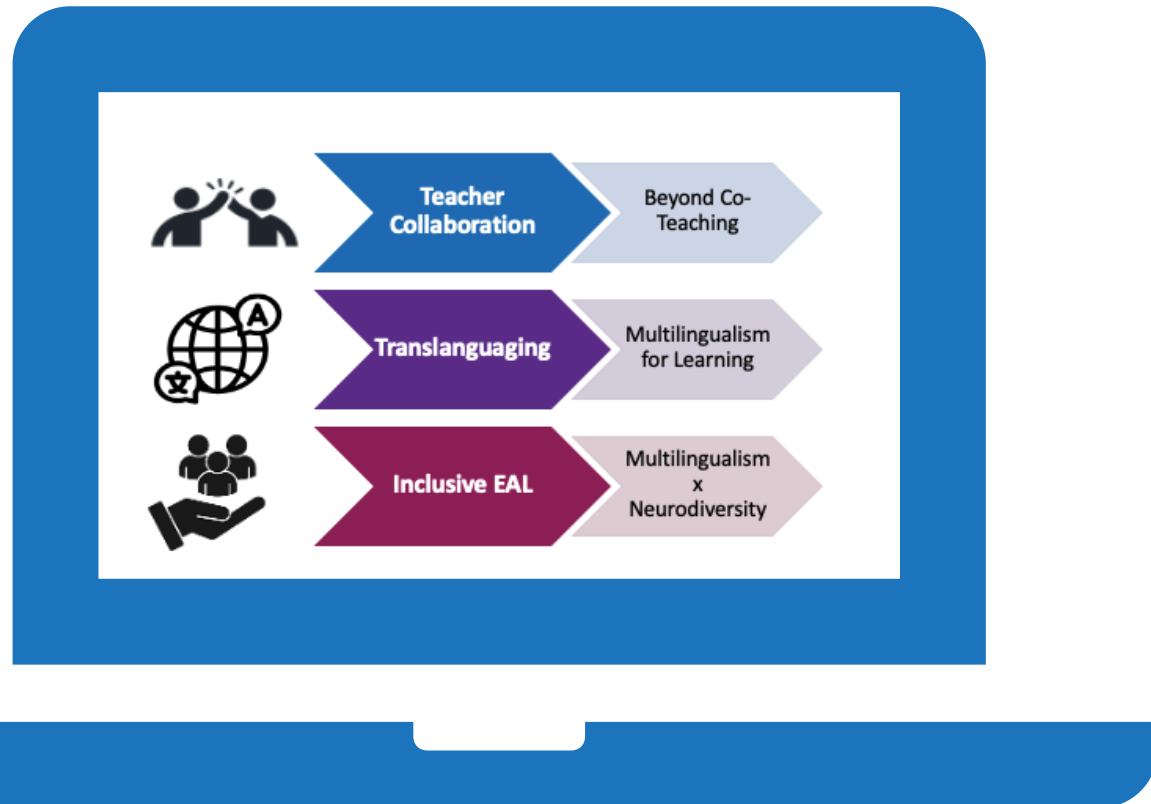
Action Research Coaching (optional)





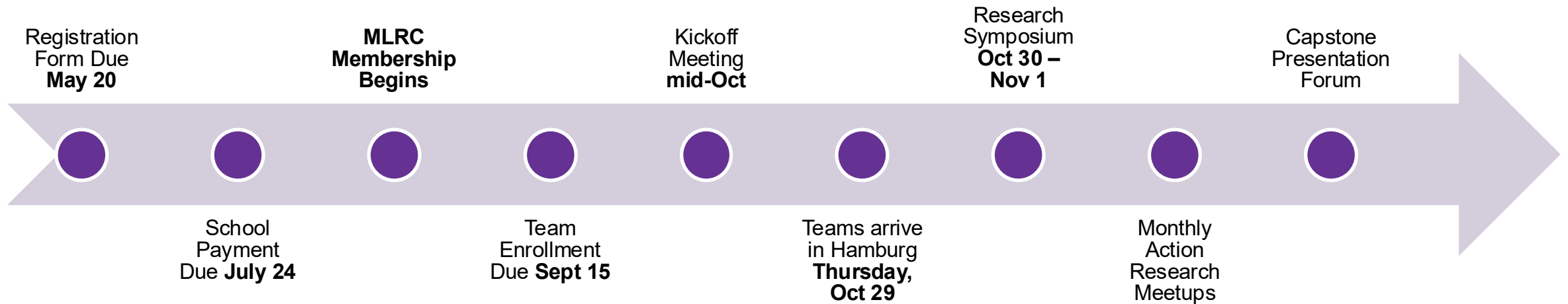
Our action research process

MLRC Member Hub



- ✓ **Curated research summaries**
- ✓ **Professional learning tools**
- ✓ **DIY workshops in all 3 topics**
- ✓ **MLs 101 interactive course**
- ✓ **Action research capstone reports**
- ✓ **New research studies**

Timeline



Next Steps

- ✓ **Submit registration form by May 20**
 - **Teams added to a waitlist once registration is full**
- ✓ **Payment due by July 24 (invoice will come from the *University of Wisconsin – Madison*)**
- ✓ **MLRC Membership begins when payment is received and continues through 2027**
- ✓ **Submit Team Enrollment by Sept 15**