## Academic Seminar: Ensuring

 ELs' Success in Core Content Area ClassesEmily Smyth, Ed.M.
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## Agenda

1. Where do I do this work?
2. Why does Academic Seminar work?
3. How does Academic Seminar work?
4. What are we doing to make it better?
5. Audience Questions

## Where do I do this Work? Hudson High School

- 934 students in grades 8-12
- $5 \%$ of student body are ELs
- Portuguese and Spanish speakers (Brazil, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and El Salvador)

- Other nationalities: Indian, Iraqi, and Portuguese
- English Language Development classes levels 1-6
- 2 Academic Seminar classes (grades 8-11)
- 2 full-time ESL teachers



## Why does AS Work?

- Taught by an ESL teacher
- 8 students per class (selected English learners)
- 8-10 students with support staff
- Group similar grade levels together (ex. grades 8-9 or grades 10-11)
- 1- 70 minute block
- 5 times in a 7 day cycle



## The Purpose of Academic Seminar

## Purpose

- To build the confidence and skills to be a successful student
- To build a network of support
- To get the help ELs need



## ACCESS Data

- 91\% of students in AS made progress on ACCESS as defined by the State (based on their previous score, \# of years in MA) compared to 38\% who were not in AS (does not include students with disabilities in AS)
- $57 \%$ of students in AS met the 4.2 overall score and 3.9 score for literacy but may or may not have exited due to other criteria vs. only $17 \%$ of ELs who did not take AS met the ACCESS criteria for reclassification.
- Small sample size
- Only tracked for 1 year

- Data is a selective group


## The Data

## School Participation


$\square$ Students who Stayed in School

Final Grades in Core Content Classes


Average of all final grades: 71\%
Median of all final grades: $\mathbf{7 2 \%}$

## How does AS Work?

1. Goal Setting Process


## 2. Study Habits

Developing organization through the agenda

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Keeping track of grades
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*Mid-Term and Final Exams are presentation based reflections on each core content area class and a skill they have perfected in each of those classes.

## Syllabus

Course Evaluation: Grades are calculated using the following percentages. A final grade of at least 60 is required to pass the course.

| Assessment | $\%$ | Description |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Participation | 30 | Students are expected to contribute to a respectful and <br> safe learning environment for all learners. <br> Participation is composed of classroom behaviors <br> (including organizational skills), ability to work <br> independently, attitude, and effort. |
| Agenda | 30 | Students are expected to keep track of their class <br> assignments in an agenda. Agenda books will be <br> graded periodically. |
| Progress |  |  |
| Monitoring | 40 | Students are expected to monitor their academic goals <br> via graphs, written reflections, and meetings with EL <br> support staff. This includes the student's progress in <br> meeting the student's Progress Monitoring Goal. |

## Agenda

## Weekly Agenda Rubric




## Progress Monitoring Goal Rubric



## Progress Monitoring Meeting

(once per term)


## What am I doing to Make it Better?

Moving Forward

- Still work to be done!
- Google Classroom
- Teacher involvement
- Parent involvement
- Forming relationships
- Valuable and meaningful for students

Audience Questions

- Emily Smyth, Ed.M. esmyth@hudson.k12.ma.us

