

## 4 Recommendations for Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners in Elementary and Middle School

**Teach a set of academic vocabulary words intensively across several days using a variety of instructional activities.**

- Choose a brief, engaging piece of informational text as a platform for intensive academic vocabulary instruction.
- Choose a small set of academic vocabulary for in-depth instruction.
- Use multiple modalities for instruction (writing, speaking, listening).
- Teach word-learning strategies to figure out the meaning of words.



**Integrate oral and written English language instruction into content-area teaching.**

- Use instructional tools to help students make sense of content.
- Explicitly teach content-specific and general academic vocabulary.
- Provide opportunities for students to talk about content in pairs/small groups.
- Provide writing opportunities to extend student learning and understanding.



**Provide regular, structured opportunities to develop written language skills.**

- Anchor writing assignments in content focused on developing academic language.
- Provide language-based supports to facilitate students' development of writing.
- Use small groups/pairs for students to work and talk together.
- Assess students' writing to identify instructional needs and provide positive, constructive feedback in response.



**Provide small-group instructional intervention to students struggling in areas of literacy and English language development.**

- Use data to identify students who struggle with language and literacy development.
- Design the content of small-group instruction to target students' identified needs.
- Provide additional instruction in small groups (3–5 students) to struggling students.
- Spend time on basic foundational reading skills, vocabulary development, and listening and reading comprehension.
- Provide scaffolded instruction that includes frequent opportunities to practice and review new skills and concepts in various contexts over several lessons.

