



Bay Area Association of School Psychologists

# February 10, 2021

9am-12pm via Zoom

## Evidence-Based Evaluations of English Language Learners

With Dr. Sam Ortiz



This presentation outlines an evidence-based approach to evaluating English learners with emphasis on contemporary methods for using tests in a nondiscriminatory manner. Specific procedures are presented which permit any evaluator to conduct assessments of English learners in a manner that can generate valid data to support conclusions and diagnostic decisions. Advances in tests and testing will be presented, including the dual-norming feature of the Ortiz PVAT and its utility in resolving the question of “difference vs. disorder.”

Topics include: understanding bias in testing; issues regarding test score validity; advantages and disadvantages of typical methods for evaluating English learners; the importance of “true peer” comparisons, research foundations and use of the Culture-Language Test Classifications and Interpretive Matrix, and application of the new Ortiz PVAT for evaluation of both native English speakers and English learners via a dual-norming feature that controls for relative exposure in learning English. The knowledge and skills gained will be useful to practitioners at all levels and provides a solid base for engaging in evaluation of English learners that incorporates contemporary research and advances in tests and testing.

This course meets the qualifications for three hours of continuing education credits for LEPs, LPCCs, LMFTs, LCSWs, and NCSPs (under provider number 1025) The California Association of School Psychologists (CASPs) maintains responsibility for the program and its content. Cost: \$20.

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