



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION



An MSAA Professional Development Workshop for: All PreK-12 Educators

Special Education and Cultural Competency Related to ELL Learners



**Featuring Ribas Associates Presenter:
Dr. Cindy Crimmin**

Tuesday, March 12
at the MSAA Office, Franklin

Sign-In: 8:00am–8:30am
Workshop: 8:30am–3:00pm

PD Hours: 6
Content Area: *Special Education*

Fees: *Member \$215 / Non-Member \$285*

MSAA Contact: pd@msaa.net

Far too often, we confuse problems of language with deeper cognitive issues, referring students to Special Education when their issues are the result of a non-English speaking background. By the same token, students in any subgroup population (English speaking, ELL and Formerly ELL) can also struggle with Learning Difficulties and with understanding a new culture. For the English speaking educator, distinguishing and applying the appropriate interventions for non-English speaking students can be a significant challenge.

After this program, the participants will be able to:

- Consider how and when to refer ELL students to special education.
- Identify ways to differentiate practice in our classroom that can benefit all students.
- Discuss assessment tools used in referrals with the lens of non-English speaking student.
- Plan strategies for working with the parents of students who may themselves struggle in a new culture and in a less than familiar language.
- Identify areas of language that are predicated on a broader cultural knowledge, such as idiomatic speech, and develop strategies to compensate potential areas of confusion.
- Identify complex cultural profiles of students recognizing differences that go unnoticed.
- Describe the concept of school readiness and parental expectations in different cultures and how these issues can inhibit or enhance student learning.

Cindy Crimmin, Ph.D., *has served in both public and private schools. Beginning as a bilingual ELL and Science teacher in the Boston Public Schools at the middle school level, she has taught Spanish at all levels from early elementary to high school Advanced Placement and was a teacher of English language learners. She completed a Ph. D. in Educational Administration at Boston College. She worked in curriculum leadership at the central office and served as an elementary principal in Watertown and Weston.*

[Register online at www.msaa.net](http://www.msaa.net)

LEADERSHIP MATTERS



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