



Bridging the Language Gap: Challenges and Strategies for South African Learners

Towards Equitable and Effective Language Education in a Diverse Society

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Thinking Beyond

Presenters

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- Doctor of Language Practice Applied Languages and Communication
- **Current Position:** Deputy Director: Language Services Unit



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- Master of Business Administration
- **Current Position:** Manager: Strategic Projects



CUT's VISION 2030

Guiding the activities that underpin our Vision.

SENSE OF PLACE

- **Deliver** high-quality, appropriate academic programmes.
- **Engage** with the community.
- **Promote** access with success.
- **Attract** and retain high-quality students and expert staff.
- **Forge** strategic partnerships.

- Sustainable development | Community engagement
- Entrepreneurship | Innovation and problem solving
- Technological literacy | Numeracy
- Communication | Technical and conceptual competence
- Teamwork | Citizenship and global leadership
- Effectiveness and Efficiency



WHY WE DO THIS

- Create new generations of intellectuals - prepared for work and life.
- Address inequality through social mobility.
- Produce new knowledge.
- Apply knowledge and solving problems.
- Engage in research and innovation to improve the quality of our community's life.
- Build competitive economies.
- Shape and contribute to nation-building projects.
- Address deep socio-economic inequalities.
- Address the national social justice agenda through research and teaching.



GUIDES OUR ACTIONS

Ubuntu
Integrity
Diversity
Innovation
Excellence



- **To create** a harmonious community conducive to teaching and learning.
- **To produce** work-ready, entrepreneurial and holistic graduates.
- **To develop** a strong culture of research and innovation.
- **To attract** develop and retain staff as the University's most important asset.
- **To build** strategic partnerships that contribute to the achievement of the University's goals.
- **To ensure** institutional sustainability, expand streams of income, and enhance the CUT brand.
- **To promote** good governance, human rights and social justice.

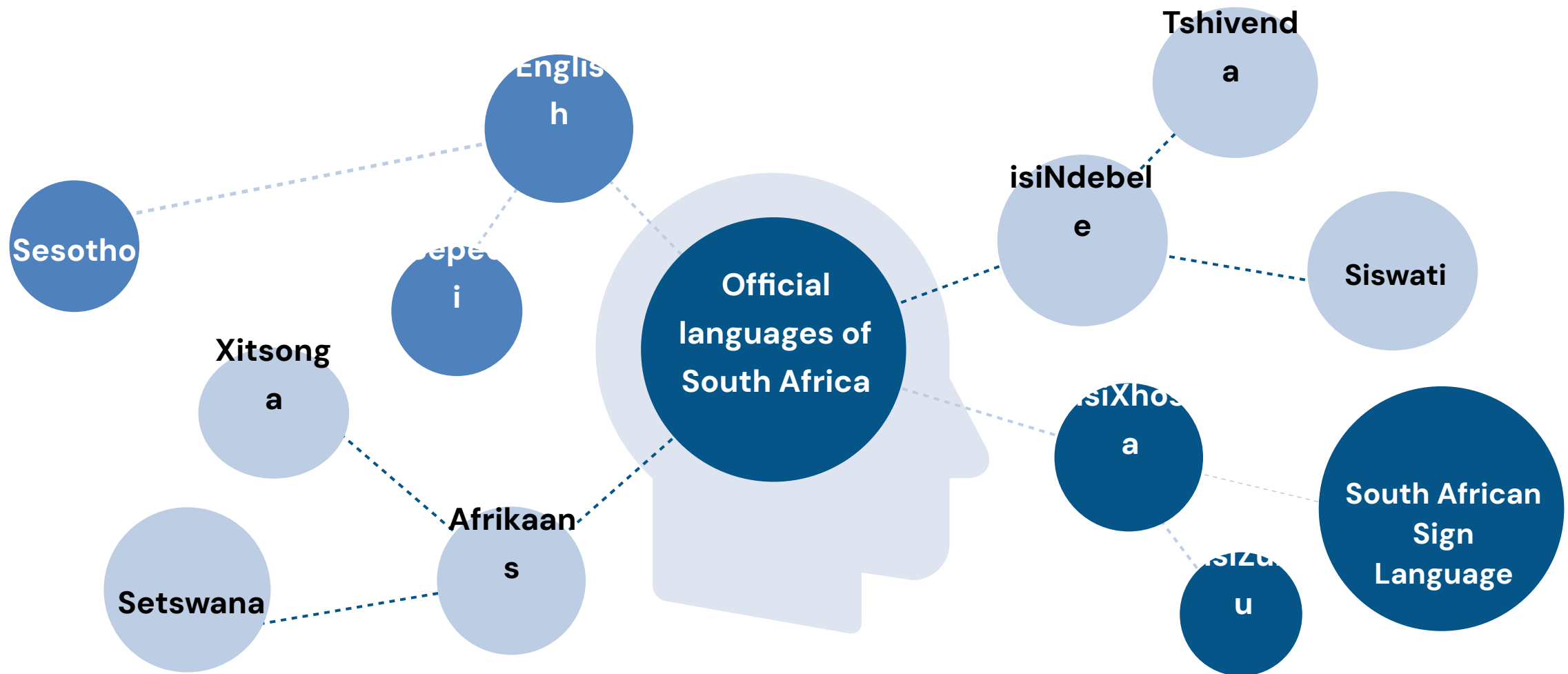
INTENT



By 2030, Central University of Technology, Free State will be a leading African University of Technology, shaping the future through innovation



SOUTH AFRICA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGES



South Africa is known as a “**rainbow nation**,” reflecting its multicultural heritage with diverse languages, religions, and ethnicities.

The Linguistic Landscape of SA Schools



South Africa: 12 official languages.



Dominance of English and Afrikaans.



Indigenous African language



Linguistic disconnect

Language Rights From a South African Perspective

Constitution



National
Language Policy
Framework (2003)

Higher Education Policy (2002)



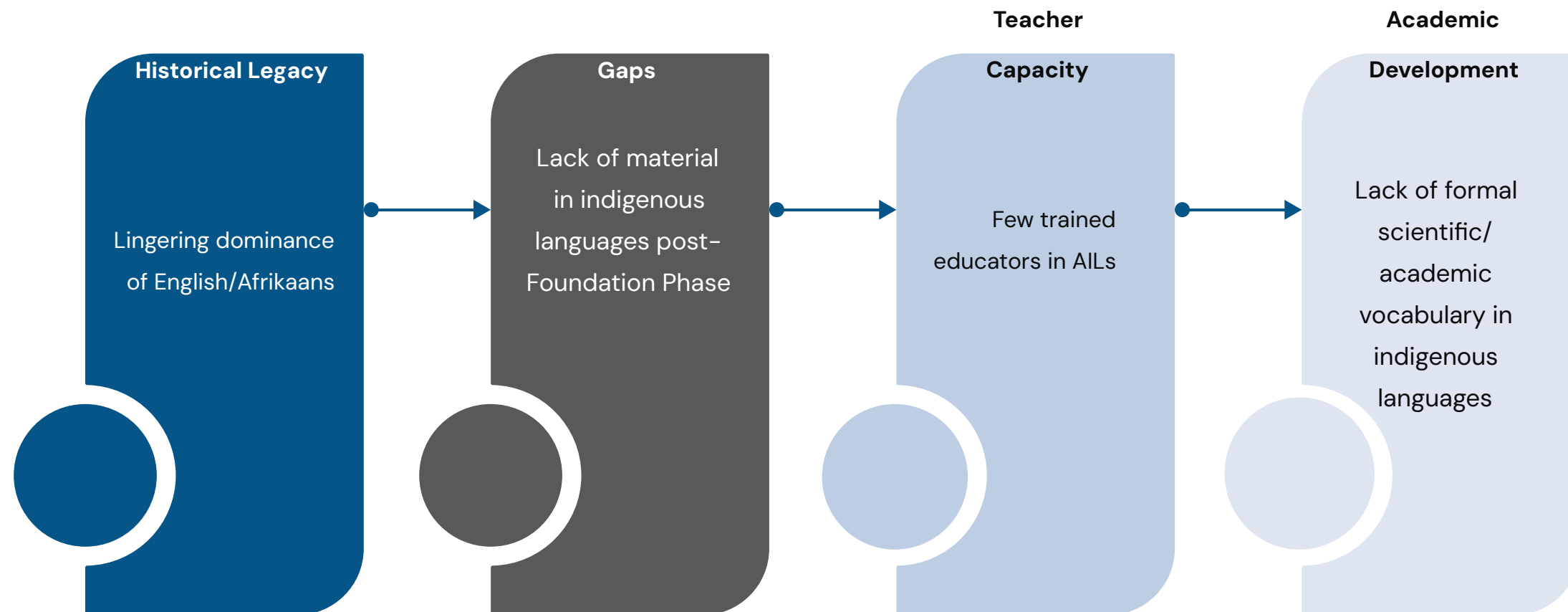
BELA Act (2025):
Promotes MTbBE and
inclusion of SASL

Schools Act (1996)



The Pan South African
Language Board (1995)

Challenges to Language Rights in Teaching & Learning



The Struggle:

Cognitive & Academic Challenges

0

1

Cognitive

Load

02

Limited
Comprehension

0

3

Reduced
Participation

04

Impact on
Critical
Thinking

05

Assessment
Disadvantage

Emotional & Social Challenges

0

1

Loss of
Identity

02

Frustration
and
Demotivation

0

3

Isolation

04

Impact on
Self-
Esteem

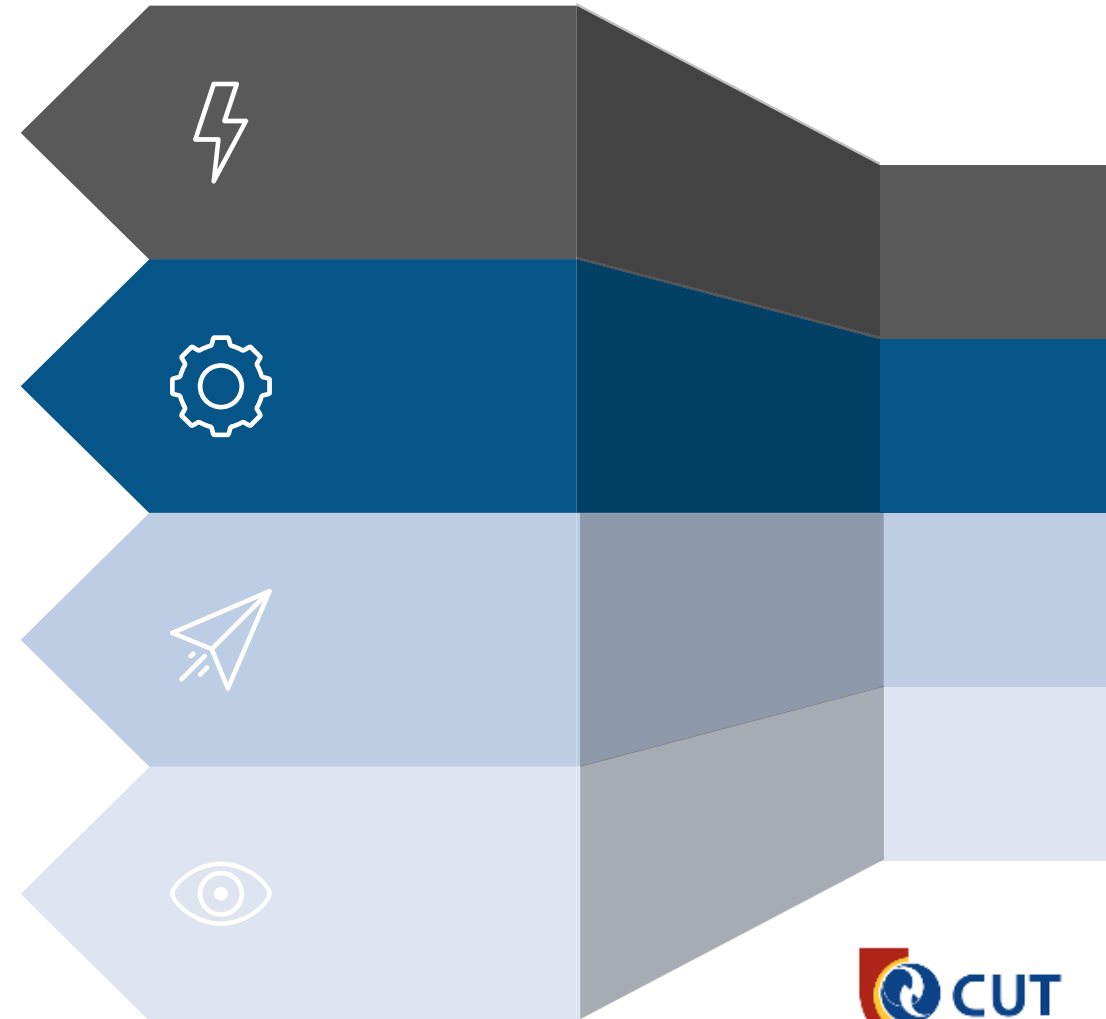
05

Parental
Involvement

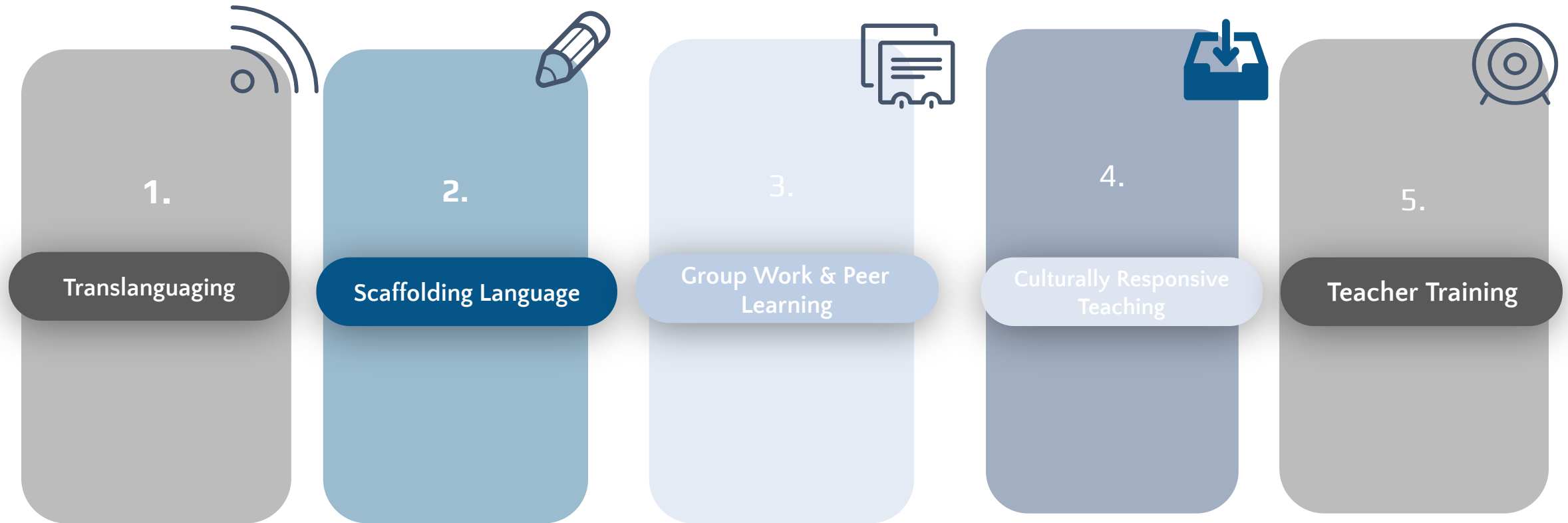
Curriculum

Language-in-Education Policy (LiEP):

- Promotes additive multilingualism
Mother Tongue
Instruction
- Policy generally supports mother language
Code-Switching
- informally code-switch (mix languages)
Terminology
Development
- Efforts to develop terminology

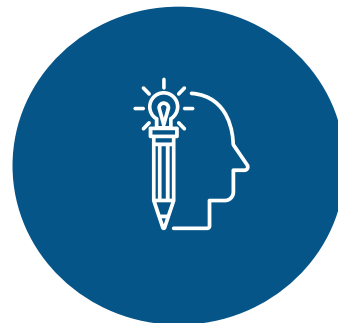


South African Strategies: Classroom & Pedagogical Approaches



Directions

Implementation Gaps

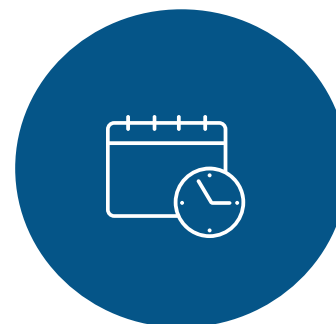


**Resource
Development**

Teacher Preparedness



Societal Attitudes



Need for Continued Research

Towards Inclusive & Effective Learning



**THANK
YOU**

