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Rebecca S. Wheeler is associate professor of English education at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. Specializing in language development in urban areas, she brings the insights of contemporary applied linguistics to bear on reducing the achievement gap in dialectally diverse classrooms. Her work on code-switching and contrastive analysis has been hailed as “pioneering” in District Administration, and the Newport News public school administration has cited her work as embodying “best practices” in reducing the achievement gap through “breaking the language code.” Wheeler is a member of the Linguistic Society of America’s Committee on Language in the School Curriculum and has served as editor of Syntax in the Schools. Her work is reported in her latest article, “Codeswitching: Tools of Language and Culture Transform the Dialectally Diverse Classroom,” to appear in NCTE’s Language Arts.

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