

# Introduction to the Best Practices for Multilingual Learners

The Best Practices for Multilingual Learners document was researched and developed through the work of the ELD Adoption Cadre. It includes critical components for comprehensive and inclusive educational support for multilingual learners throughout their K-12 educational career. The expectation for these best practices is to guide Beaverton School District's approach to instruction and professional development at all levels and in all content areas, lead to increased collaboration between ELD and content-area teachers and specialists, and stimulate conversations that lead to changes in policy, structures, and practice that positively impact multilingual learner outcomes.

These best practices are organized into seven guiding principles:

1. Cultural Assets
2. Multilingualism
3. Equitable & Authentic Assessment
4. Meaningful Communication
5. Scaffolding for Autonomy
6. Collaboration
7. Social Justice & Advocacy

The first two principles, *Cultural Assets* and *Multilingualism*, address two fundamental elements of a strength-based instructional approach when teaching and working with multilingual learners. They focus on celebrating, building upon, and sharing the assets all multilingual learners bring with them into the educational system. The next three principles, *Equitable & Authentic Assessment*, *Meaningful Communication*, and *Scaffolding for Autonomy*, relate specifically to instructional practices necessary for academic success for multilingual learners. The final two principles, *Collaboration* and *Social Justice & Advocacy*, focus primarily on implementing improved institutional practices that will mitigate structural barriers that adversely affect multilingual students.

Together, these guiding principles and best practices outline steps toward meeting our promise of equitable outcomes. Implementation of these principles and practices provides an opportunity for all members of our community to embrace and build upon the strengths of multilingual learners and create an inclusive, rigorous and joyous learning environment for all students.

NOTE: When reading the best practices, words in **bold** print are further defined in the glossary that follows.