

Supporting Families of English Learners



& Best Practices

Engaging Parents

Help parents understand the routines: drop off, pick up, bussing, homework, breakfast and lunch, absences, school closures, special services, graduation requirements etc.

Try a variety of digital communication tools to find the family's preferred method (email, Remind, text messaging). You can change family's preferred language in Remind.

Partially fill-out forms that students need to return to school with parent's signature.

Mark important forms and separate them from general information in the Wednesday envelope.



Getting Ready for Parent Teacher Conferences

- Know if the parents need an interpreter for the meeting and contact the English Learner Team to set one up 1-2 weeks in advance.
- Prepare data regarding student's performance. Parent letters that accompany [MAP test](#) results and [Access test](#) results are available in many languages.
- Write a bulleted list of talking points and Google translate it into the family's language.
- Be ready with resources for parents: websites used in class, homework tips, partially filled forms for parents to sign.

During Parent Teacher Conferences

Always start and finish the meeting with something
POSITIVE.

Ask the parents about their hopes and dreams for the child.

Emphasize growth and strengths. Show work samples.

Encourage parents to speak and read in the home
language with their child.

Using Interpreters



- Contact English Learner team in advance to set up the interpreter.
- Do not use older siblings or the student to interpret for parents at important meetings.
- Chunk your speech and pause to give the interpreter time to relay the message.
- Know that your meeting may last twice as long with the interpreter services.
- Please understand that in our community interpreters may not be available for every language.



Report Card Comments

Use the report card comments to communicate to the parents about accommodations and modifications (if applicable) that their child is receiving as an English Learner.

Example: “The student’s grade in ____ is modified due to the language proficiency and accommodations provided.”

If needed, translate the comment into the student’s home language with the help of Google Translate.



Thank You!

Credits: Template Beige and Green Illustrative Parenting
Presentation, Canva