

Anchored in Literacy Multilingual



Monthly Newsletter AUGUST 2026

Welcome Back to School!

As we kick off the new school year, let's focus on building a strong foundation for supporting multilingual learners (MLLs) and their families. This month, we'll explore understanding language levels, fostering parent communication, and introducing essential tools.

THIS MONTH'S FOCUS:

- **Welcoming MLLs:** Foster a classroom where every student feels welcomed, valued, and connected.
- **Know Your Learners:** Review language proficiency levels to guide instruction and support.
- **Classroom Environment & Routines:** Establish routines and clear expectations that support language and learning.
- **Relationships & Families:** Build positive partnerships that foster trust, belonging, and student success.

NEWCOMER WELCOME STRATEGIES

- Help new multilingual learners feel safe, included, and ready to learn.
- Greet students by name each day.
- Pair students with a classroom buddy.
- Use visuals, gestures, and modeled routines.
- Label the classroom in multiple languages.
- Teach routines explicitly and practice often.
- Celebrate students' home languages and cultures.

Teacher Tip: Belonging comes before language growth.

CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT

In India, August brings Raksha Bandhan, a festival celebrating the bond between siblings. Sisters tie a decorative thread (rakhi) on their brothers' wrists, symbolizing love and protection. This tradition highlights the value of strong, supportive relationships.

FIRST WEEK TEACHER MOVES

- Model classroom expectations.
- Provide sentence frames.
- Build daily opportunities for partner talk.
- Use visuals to support understanding.
- Check for understanding frequently.
- Celebrate effort and growth.

Teacher Tip: Focus on Routines before rigor

QUICK GUIDE TO EL TERMS

EL: Student identified through the Initial ELPAC who receives EL services.

Initial ELPAC: Determines EL or IFEP status for newly enrolled students.

Summative ELPAC: Annual assessment measuring Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

ELPAC Levels

- **Level 1 – Beginning:** Uses words and simple phrases.
- **Level 2 – Emerging:** Communicates with simple sentences and support.
- **Level 3 – Expanding:** Uses more complex language with strategic support.
- **Level 4 – Bridging:** Communicates independently using academic language.

Integrated ELD: Language development embedded in all content areas.

Designated ELD: Protected time for targeted English language instruction.

IFEP: Fluent on the Initial ELPAC; no EL services.

RFEP: Former EL who has met reclassification criteria.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Family Involvement Drives Student Success:

- Academic Achievement: Students with engaged families are more likely to earn higher grades and score better on tests.
- Attendance Rates: Active family participation correlates with increased student attendance, leading to more consistent learning experiences.
- Social-Emotional Development: Family involvement contributes to better social skills and classroom behavior, fostering a positive learning environment.

Welcoming Newcomers:

- Diverse Student Population: Children from immigrant households constitute over 25% of the U.S. child population and represent the fastest-growing segment of school-age students.

Impact of Bullying on Academic Performance:

- Schools with severe bullying climates can see up to a 5% decrease in students passing state-mandated standardized tests.

Building Classroom Community:

- Positive School Climate Benefits: A positive school climate is linked to decreased achievement gaps, highlighting the importance of fostering an inclusive environment.

Sense of Belonging and Academic Success:

- Students who feel a strong sense of belonging and connection within their school community tend to have higher academic performance and better mental health outcomes.

LEARN MORE

- ELPAC Starting Smarter: A Parent and Teacher resources
- Colorín Colorado: Resources for creating welcoming classrooms for MLL students
- Equipping ELLs Podcast: Empowering Newcomers: Essential Lessons for the First 3 Weeks
- Equipping ELLs Podcast: Defining Your WHY: Empowering You to Embrace Your Purpose

LOOKING AHEAD

Coming in September: Explore listening strategies and academic routines, such as **Listen, Think, Pair, Share** and **guided note-taking**, to strengthen students' *listening comprehension, language development, and active participation*.

WELCOME & CONNECT ACTIVITIES

- Send a translated Welcome Letter.
- Complete an "I Wish My Teacher Knew..." activity.
- Administer a Reading Interest Survey.
- Collect a Family Interest Survey.

STRATEGIES FOR FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Use Tech Tools to Communicate

- ChatGPT: Draft family-friendly letters, newsletters, and reminders.
- Canva Magic Write: Create newsletters, flyers, and invitations.
- ParentSquare: Send translated messages, announcements, and reminders.

Simplify Language

- Use short, clear sentences and avoid educational jargon.
- Example: Instead of "Please ensure your child submits their homework by Friday," say "Homework is due Friday."

Invite Family to Share

- Ask families about their preferred communication method.
- Learn about their child's strengths, interests, needs, and home language.

Invite Families to Participate

- Back-to-School Night
- Coffee with the Principal
- SSC, ELAC, and DELAC meetings

Leverage Interpreters

- Use interpreters during conferences and meetings to ensure meaningful communication.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Initial ELPAC Administered throughout Aug-Sep.
- Secondary Newcomer Event 9/23/26