
**Vista Higher Learning
Center for Applied Linguistics
Webinar Series**

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Objectives and Agenda

Objectives

In this webinar you will:

- Define Multilingual family engagement
- Explore practices, resources, and digital tools that can support the integration of collaborative engagement in academic discourse and inquiry among multilingual families
- Identify no tech, low-tech, and high-tech language and literacy activities to share with multilingual families

Agenda

- Multilingual Family Engagement Considerations
- Multilingual Family Language and Literacy Event Planning
- Multilingual Family Engagement Activities

Multilingual Family Engagement in a Hybrid World

Thinking about Family Engagement¹

What is multilingual family engagement?	How do multilingual families want to be engaged?
What might keep multilingual families from being engaged?	What can schools do to increase multilingual family engagement?

¹ Garcia, M. E., Frunzi, K., Dean, C. B., Flores, N., & Miller, K. B. (2016). Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education: Part 1: Building an understanding of family and community engagement (REL 2016–148). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Pacific. Retrieved from <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs>.

Multilingual Family Engagement in a Hybrid World

Using Demographic Data to inform Multilingual Family Engagement²

What demographic data do we have, or can we obtain to deepen our understanding of our school's multilingual families and community?	Do we have these data? (yes or no)	If no, how can we obtain these data?	What questions might we answer using these demographic data?
How might answers to these questions influence our multilingual family and community engagement efforts?			

² Garcia, M. E., Frunzi, K., Dean, C. B., Flores, N., & Miller, K. B. (2016). Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education: Part 1: Building an understanding of family and community engagement (REL 2016–148). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Pacific. Retrieved from <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs>.

Multilingual Family and Community Engagement Self-Assessment

Questions	Current Practices
How are we involving multilingual families as partners in the learning process of their children?	
How are we presenting information to multilingual families and community members?	
How are the diverse experiences, interests, and abilities of multilingual families considered when planning programs and school activities?	
What current practices have had a positive impact on multilingual family and community relationships?	
How are we identifying and supporting multilingual families at risk of not engaging with the school?	
What opportunities, resources, and materials are made available to multilingual families and the community to enable them to participate in discussions and activities related to student learning?	
How are multilingual parents' voices included in the planning of family events?	

Multilingual Family Engagement in a Hybrid World

Multilingual Family Language and Literacy Event Planning Checklist In-Person Event

Task	Questions to Consider
<input type="checkbox"/> Define the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the hook or theme? ✓ Does it respond to real multilingual community needs and interests? ✓ How will it build language and literacy skills and multilingual family connections? ✓ How will we involve multilingual families in all stages of the planning process?
<input type="checkbox"/> Create an agenda of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What/how many activities will we offer?
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign responsibilities	<p>Who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide the language and literacy expertise and guidance? ✓ Set up the space? ✓ Greet and sign in participants? ✓ Lead activities- and in what languages ✓ Provide refreshments? ✓ Stay and clean up?
<input type="checkbox"/> Create and distribute invitations, fliers, and other correspondence like emails, signs, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Who will design/produce them? ✓ Are they culturally inclusive? ✓ Into how many languages should they be translated? ✓ How many will we disseminate? How?
<input type="checkbox"/> Generate publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Who will write a multilingual press release? ✓ What other outlets are there to increase publicity? ✓ Can someone act as event photographer? ✓ If so, will we need photo releases?
<input type="checkbox"/> Secure necessary supplies and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Where will the event take place? ✓ Will we need audiovisual equipment? ✓ How will we accommodate special needs (e.g., translators, translation devices, accommodations for physical disabilities)
<input type="checkbox"/> Secure necessary supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What supplies will each activity require? ✓ Who will bring what? ✓ Can we secure donations from local businesses or organizations?
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to evaluate the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How will we measure event success? ✓ Will we distribute a multilingual survey? Who will design, collect, and compile it? ✓ Will there be a multilingual reflection/discussion at the end of the event? ✓ How will this event link with other activities to follow?
<input type="checkbox"/> Perform follow-up activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Who will capture post-event reporting (e.g., to the press, project administration, community partners)? ✓ Who will write thank-you letters? ✓ What is the bridge to the next multilingual family language and literacy activity?

Multilingual Family Engagement in a Hybrid World

Multilingual Family Language and Literacy Event Planning Checklist Virtual Event

Task	Questions to Consider
<input type="checkbox"/> Define the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the hook or theme? ✓ Does it respond to real multilingual community needs and interests? ✓ How will it build language and literacy skills and multilingual family connections? ✓ How will we involve multilingual families in all stages of the planning process?
<input type="checkbox"/> Create an agenda of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What/how many activities will we offer?
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign responsibilities	<p>Who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide the language and literacy expertise and guidance? ✓ Set up the virtual space? ✓ Greet and sign in participants? ✓ Lead activities- and in what languages? ✓ Lead breakout rooms? ✓ Provide multilingual family support for completing digital survey?
<input type="checkbox"/> Create and distribute invitations, fliers, and other correspondence like emails, signs, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Who will design/produce them? ✓ Are they culturally inclusive? ✓ Into how many languages should they be translated? ✓ What platform will be used to disseminate?
<input type="checkbox"/> Generate publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Who will write a multilingual press release? ✓ What other outlets are there to increase publicity? ✓ Can someone act as event videographer? ✓ If so, will we need video releases?
<input type="checkbox"/> Secure necessary supplies and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What virtual platform will be used for the event? ✓ Will we need links to digital activities/websites? ✓ How will we accommodate special needs (e.g., translators, translation apps/tutorials, accommodations for physical disabilities)?
<input type="checkbox"/> Secure necessary supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What supplies will each activity require? ✓ Who will create links to digital activities? ✓ Can we secure donations from local businesses or organizations for prizes or digital apps?
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan to evaluate the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How will we measure event success? ✓ Will we distribute a multilingual digital survey? Who will design, collect, and compile it? ✓ Will there be a multilingual reflection/discussion at the end of the event? ✓ How will this event link with other virtual or in-person activities to follow?
<input type="checkbox"/> Perform follow-up activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Who will capture post-event reporting (e.g., to the press, project administration, community partners)? ✓ Who will write multilingual thank-you emails? ✓ What is the bridge to the next multilingual family language and literacy activity? Will it be virtual or in-person?

Multilingual Family Event Implementation Tasks

Logistics

Task	Who	By When	Status	Notes
Room Reservation				
Room set up (Chairs and tables arranged to encourage conversation, display table)				
Request Staff and Volunteers				
Budget				
Snacks or meals				
Distributing multilingual announcements and making follow-up contact with multilingual parents				
Childcare for siblings arranged if needed				
Transportation set up if needed				
Materials (multilingual handouts, welcome signs, prizes, name tags)				
Preparing for parents with special needs (translation devices)				
Contingency plan				

Multilingual Family Engagement in a Hybrid World

Family Planning Event

Task	Who	By When	Status	Notes
Outline of event has been distributed so that everyone involved knows what to expect				
All multilingual materials are ready for presentation				
Facilitation strategies support multilingual adult learning styles				
Evaluation of event is prepared (multilingual parent survey, multilingual follow-up discussion)				
Multilingual Parent Sign-in sheet is ready				
Event opening/closing planned in multiple languages				
Hosts/Guides know the plan and are ready to greet multilingual families				
Multilingual interpreters are ready to interact with multilingual families				

Multilingual Family Event Implementation Tasks

Event Follow-up

Task	Who	By When	Status	Notes
Reflect on what went well and what could be improved				
Multilingual thank you notes sent when appropriate				
Post pictures to school website and social media				
Clean and disinfect translation equipment- (headsets, microphones)				

Sample Agenda-Language and Literacy Focused Event

Multilingual family learning events can be planned for the length of time that best fits the needs of the multilingual parents and the school/community. Many events last between 1.5 and 2 hours. When creating an agenda, remember to allow time for multilingual parents to arrive and become comfortable with the environment and time of the closing at the end of the event.

Parent Arrival (10-15 minutes)

- A staff member should be available to greet multilingual families as they come in and escort them to the event. Also, direct parents to sign in and make them feel comfortable as they wait for the event to begin.
- If multilingual families are able to bring their own devices, provide instructions for connecting to Wi-Fi and navigating to the site or application that will be used.

Welcome (5 minutes)

- The workshop leader or designee greets the multilingual parents and comes them. Messages should highlight that both multilingual parents and teachers are important partners in the success of multilingual children.

Student Performance/Ice Breaker (10-15 minutes)

- Provide an icebreaker activity that is related to the overall theme or concept of the workshop. This activity is designed to let multilingual parents get to know you and each other.
- If students are performing, provide multilingual parents information where to go to view the performance.

Whole Group Activity (20-30 minutes)

- Share information about the event in an interactive way. Vary the use of sharing strategies and audio-visual equipment-PowerPoint, discussion, video clips, charts, handouts, small group work.

Small Group Sessions (20 minutes)

- Multilingual families should be given the opportunity to practice the activities/strategies modeled by presenters.

Large Group Sharing (20 minutes)

- Multilingual families are given the opportunity to share the strategies they practice and how it went for them.
- Discuss any questions or concerns multilingual parents have about carrying out the strategy.
- Multilingual families share their plan for using the strategy/activity at home.

Closing (5 minutes)

- Summarize the event for multilingual families.
- Make connections to home.
- Provide materials for multilingual families to use at home.
- Ask parents to complete the evaluation form and ask for suggestions for topics for future sessions.
- Provide certificates for multilingual families.
- Incorporate food at this time.

Virtual Pep Rallies

- Pep rallies are
 - A gathering before a sports event to get students and fans excited and to encourage the team to win
 - Encourages school spirit and support members of the team
 - Often the culmination of a weeklong build-up of spirit days and anticipation
 - Consider an academic pep rally for A/B honor rolls/ Attendance awards
 - Students' names are called to wave in front of camera as they receive their awards
- Create a hashtag in English and home languages
- Get students and families involved by asking them to post selfies of themselves wearing spirit attire
- Include music such as school band or prerecorded music
- Have a virtual scavenger hunt
 - Create a list of items and have families race to get them and see who can collect them the fastest.
 - Offer prizes and rewards for playing along, and consider including items that can be found both outside and inside to keep it interesting
- Ask a coach to give a speech
- Include a virtual dance party
 - Consider the Cupid Shuffle, Macarena, Cha Cha Slide, Church Clap, and other upbeat line dances that most multilingual students/families already know
 - You could also include Tik Tok dances and ask a student leader to lead this portion of the pep rally
- Spirit Week Ideas
 - Decade Day (50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, etc.)
 - Dress-up Day
 - Favorite Movie Day
- Spirit Cheer
 - A multilingual cheer that spotlights the individual classes that is choreographed with moves

Multilingual Family Engagement in a Hybrid World

Family Engagement Activities

List linguistic supports or scaffolds that multilingual families will need for the following activities. Brainstorm how you could modify the activity for your grade level, content area, topic for an in-person and a virtual multilingual family engagement event.

What's in the Bag	
Linguistic Supports	
In-Person	Virtual

_____ Activity	
Linguistic Supports	
In-Person	Virtual