

# Community Member Questions

## Conversation Cards for Building Trust

**Purpose:** The purpose of this tool is to have ideas for questions that educators can use with community members to help build trust and collaborative relationships connected to multilingual learners and their families. This is not a comprehensive list of questions but a list of ideas. The questions are intended to be used with the WIDA Conversation Card Template.

**Instructions:** Choose a few questions that fit best with your context or create your own. You do not need to use all the questions. Write the questions you'd like to use in the Conversation Card Template, and then print them out for your conversation. For example, the conversation cards could be used during a visit to a community organization or another formal or informal event or conversation.

### Considerations for Use With Community Members

- **Current level of trust:** Consider the strength of your relationships as you use and share the conversation cards. Forcing a question-and-answer format in early interactions with students, families, and community members may unintentionally create pressure, making them feel uncomfortable rather than supported.
- **Trust happens in a variety of ways:** Consider small gestures that make multilingual students, families, and community members feel welcomed and valued. Use simple greetings in their home languages. Share your own experiences if you are an English learner or migrant; express humility, value in families' languages, and a learning stance if you are not. This helps build empathy and relatability. Even small efforts can go a long way in making them feel seen.
- **Trust happens over time:** Show that you are open and welcoming, and value where multilingual students, families, and community members are at with engagement. This means listening to their stories and needs, responding to their feedback and ideas, connecting in places they prefer, and offering opportunities to collaborate. Make relationship-building an ongoing practice.

# Questions for Educators to Use With Community Members

## Beginning Relationship Building

### Information Gathering About the Community Organization

1. Please share about your organization and its mission and values.
2. How do you currently work with multilingual learners and/or their families?
  - a. Tell me about how you have created welcoming spaces for multilingual learners and their families.
  - b. How have you developed relationships with multilingual learners and their families over time?

### Bringing Community Connections Into the School

3. How do you think our school can connect with your organization to support multilingual learners and/or their families?
  - a. Based on your experiences with multilingual learners and their families, what programs, services, or resources would you like to see in our school?
  - b. How can we uplift and incorporate the interests, experiences, languages, and cultural practices of multilingual families into our school?
4. How can we incorporate aspects of your community work with multilingual learners and their families into our school environment and/or classroom instruction?

### Continuing to Collaborate

5. What local events or resources could help strengthen the connection between multilingual families, the community, and our school?
6. What is the next thing we can do together to best support multilingual learners and their families?

## Ongoing Relationship Building

1. How are things going with \_\_\_\_\_? (Share a specific thing you've discussed in the past.)
  - a. What is going well?
  - b. What has been challenging?
  - c. How can I provide support?
2. What else can we do to continue building trusting relationships to support multilingual learners and their families?
3. What else can we do to strengthen the relationship between the school and your organization?