

# Educators as Advocates: Advocating For and With Multilingual Families

Advocating for and with families of multilingual learners means recognizing and honoring their right to be informed, involved, and respected as equal partners in their children's education. Informed by the voices and experiences of families, this resource offers topic areas and sample questions for educators to ask families. Educators can use this resource as they engage in two-way conversations with the families of multilingual learners and find ways to advocate together.

## Fostering Two-Way Communication, Language Access, and Engagement

Clear, consistent, reciprocal, and accessible communication and engagement between families and educators is essential to advocating for student success.

### Two-Way Communication and Language Access

1. In what language do you prefer to receive school communications, and how can we ensure you receive information clearly and consistently? How do you prefer communicating with us?
2. How often would you like to receive updates on your child's progress, and what communication methods (e.g., text, email, phone call) work best for you?

### Engagement

1. How can we collaborate more effectively to support your child's success and strengthen our school community?
2. What are your preferred ways to engage with the school, share feedback, or connect with other families?
3. Do you have any questions about the way things work at school?
4. Are there certain decisions regarding your child's education and well-being that you would like to be a part of?

## Supporting Student Learning, Academic Growth, and Nurturing Well-Being

Families have the right to understand how their children are being supported at school, both in the classroom and beyond.

### Academic Support and Opportunities

1. What are your hopes and goals for your child's learning this year, and how can we work together to support their academic growth? How can I help nurture your child's multilingualism, interests, and cultural background?
2. Are there specific academic areas where you feel your child might need additional support or opportunities for growth, and how can we work together to address these?

## Well-Being and Support Services

1. How does your child feel about coming to school? Is there anything I should know so we can partner to nurture their well-being?
2. Are there any activities or services (e.g., extracurricular, tutoring, mental health) you would like to know more about?
3. Do you have any questions, or is there anything else you would like to share?

What other questions do you have for families? Use the space below to write down any additional questions that come to mind.