

Collaborating in Community to Support Multilingual Learners and Their Families

How can you partner with your community to support multilingual learners and their families? Use this tool to explore ideas and examples from educators.

Engage Multilingual Learners and Their Families

- Listen to your multilingual learners and their families.
- Partner with community members and families to co-facilitate conversations.
- Gather ideas from families about collaborating—for what purpose, how, and with whom? Consider the following examples:
 - Host small listening sessions (offer a variety of times and locations, and consider in-person or virtual options; provide childcare, transportation, and interpretation support as needed).
 - Co-create a survey to gather information (e.g., [Sample School Community Assets and Interests Survey](#)).

Facilitate Collaboration Between School, Students, Families, and the Larger Community

- Research community organizations, businesses, and programs that offer the types of collaboration and supports families are seeking.
- Co-create resources and activities that strengthen connections.
 - Develop a community resource map (e.g., [Mapping Community Assets and Resources](#)) or host a community resource fair.
 - Create a *Welcome to Our Community* resource and offer it in multiple languages.
 - Host events or workshops in community spaces where families already feel comfortable (for example, at a community cultural center).
 - Connect multilingual learners and families with local volunteer and apprenticeship programs, organizations, and businesses (for example, summer internship opportunities or work-based learning experiences).
 - Connect multilingual learners and families with resources offered at libraries, local community centers, or other community groups (for example, art cart events offered through a city outreach program, tutoring

offered at a community center, nature walks offered at the local park, or story time offered at the library).

- Connect multilingual learners and families with community college and university programs (for example, college and career nights or multilingual learner family groups such as [Juntos](#)).

Grow Your Own

- Co-create a collaborative activity or program with students, families, and community members to meet a specific, locally-identified need.
 - Host conversation groups where families and educators gather regularly to practice language (e.g., alternating between English and a partner language) and build relationships.
 - Collaborate with families to establish a resource and welcome center that offers information, connection to services, and a sense of belonging for multilingual learners and their family and social networks.
 - Provide regular opportunities for students and families to gather and form connections, offer mutual support, and strengthen their sense of community.