

# Educator Voice: Collaborating in the District Video Transcript

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**Voiceover:** Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a Multilingual Parent Leadership Council that brings together parents and staff from the Department of Bilingual Education and World Languages. The council is a collaborative forum where families and district representatives partner to share feedback, discuss priorities, and strengthen programs.

**Hannah Ramontal:** Today, I'm excited to share the meaningful work of our ESOL Parent Leadership Academy, an important group dedicated to supporting English language learners and ensuring every multilingual family feels informed, empowered, and included. Throughout the year, the PLC has engaged in deep and thoughtful conversation about topics that impact our multilingual learners. These conversations help ensure that every decision we make keeps students' needs at the center. Our families bring powerful questions and insights to the committee. Some of the most common topics they've raised include how long it takes a child to become proficient in academic English, the types of language development supports our schools provide. Their voices guide our work, helping us better understand what information is most needed. Working together, we've addressed all of their questions collaboratively.

**Vanessa de la Peña:** Families play a central and active role on the council. They serve as advisors, advocates, collaborators, and decision-making partners. They provide valuable feedback, help shape initiatives, support programs and events, and share important information with the broader parent community. Topics for the council meetings are selected based on direct parent input. We gather feedback from surveys, suggestion forms, and discussions during prior meetings, intentionally listening to family concerns and priorities. We also align topics with the district's ELL plan to ensure families understand the instructional models, services, and resources available to all English language learners.

**Marie Viard:** The Parent Leadership Council in our district is here to— It's a communication bridge between our community, our parents, and our students. The

committee helps ensure that information shared by the district is accessible, culturally responsive, and clearly understood— and understanding by multilingual families.

**Hannah Ramontal:** If we were advising another school district on how to start and sustain a multilingual family leadership committee, we would say engage families early, invite them into the Parent Leadership Council, and create a structure where every family has a voice.

**Voiceover:** We would like to thank Ms. Ramontal, Ms. de la Peña, Ms. Viard for sharing their experiences. We appreciate your commitment to district-level family engagement partnerships that impact all multilingual families and students.