

Introduction to Collaboration Video Transcript

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Natalie Lau-Chien: Hi, my name is Natalie Lau Chien, and I'm a WIDA Fellow and an ESOL educator. It is my pleasure to introduce you to one of the ABCs of Family and Community Engagement, Collaboration. Continuous, reciprocal, and accessible collaboration is an essential part of our practice, programs, and policies that support meaningful engagement with families and communities. We know from research that multilingual families want to be involved in their children's education. Collaboration offers opportunities for educators to ensure that multilingual families are actively involved in partnerships with schools and communities. Providing family-friendly, jargon-free communication in families' preferred languages and through accessible technologies is an important part of collaborating with multilingual families. Likewise, offering families a barrier-free community space where they can authentically build relationships with other families, educators, and community members is key to their sense of belonging. One family member shared that participating in such a space felt like being en casa.

The resources you will find in this collaboration Snapshot include examples and practical ideas from the field, and feature multilingual students, their families, and educators. All the videos and resources are organized into three specific topics: collaborating in community, collaborating in the classroom, and collaborating in the district. I invite you to explore these collaboration resources and take what is most helpful to you and adapt it to your context. You'll find ideas to explore, whether you're just getting started with a new collaborative program or practice, or are looking for fresh ways to enhance and strengthen what you're already doing. I wish you all the best as you continue collaborating with your multilingual learners, their families, educators, and community members. Thank you for everything you do for your multilingual learners and families.