

Building Effective Relationships with Parents

Cultivating Supportive Relationships with Families of ELL Students

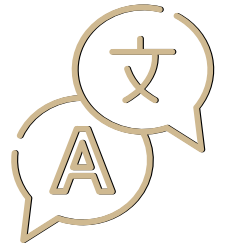
Connection Strategies

1

Communication

Goal: Communicate with parents and families using **their** preferred language.

- Find a bilingual interpreter
- Translate written materials
- Learn common phrases in native languages to promote connection
- Provide names and contact information of bilingual staff in the school and district

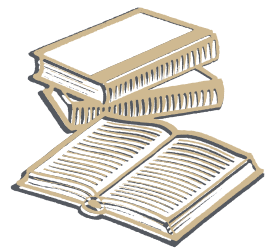


2

Education System

Goal: Help orient parents and families to the U.S. education system, which may **differ** from what they have previously experienced.

- Review school academic calendar, rules, and curriculum standards together
- Explain expectations for parent/family involvement and input
- Ensure parents/families know about their rights (ex: access to translators and translated materials, free lunch programs)
- Explain available language program options



3

Community Relationships

Goal: Connect with parents and families through **home** and **community** visits.

- Arrange for a translator or interpreter to be present
- Defer to parent/family preferred time and location
- Ask questions for clarification and gather parent/family input



4

Partnership

Goal: Invite parents and families to **partner** with the school.

- Organize an orientation at the beginning of the school year to get to know parents/families and answer questions
- Encourage parents/families to become volunteers (ex: teaching a craft, teaching a dance)
- Cultivate awareness of learning opportunities for parents/families (ex. literacy classes for adults)



In what ways could you **invest** in your **partnerships** with families of ELL students?

Reference

Colorín Colorado. *How to reach out to parents of ELLs?*

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/how-reach-out-parents-ells>