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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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BULLETIN NO. 085-20 SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Federal and State Program Managers
School District Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Supporting Multilingual/English Learners and Their Families

CONTACT: Veronica Gallardo, Director, Migrant and Bilingual Education
360-725-6148, veronica.gallardo@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to support multilingual/English learners and their families with resources to access distance learning and to offset some of the additional life stressors brought about by the pandemic. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also reminds school districts to meet the civil rights obligations to multilingual/English learners and their families in each phase of reopening schools. School districts are encouraged to use CARES Act funds to address additional language access and educational supports. To assist school districts with meeting civil rights obligations, OSPI has issued guidance, resources, and translated navigation guides in the top nine languages of our multilingual/English learners and their families.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES

Given the widely documented technology gaps with multilingual families, it is necessary for school districts to account for each student's learning by first identifying family access to and comfort with technology. Some families may need one-to-one devices for school-aged children, internet access, assistance with basic computer literacy skills, and guidance to access online learning management systems. Below are links to resources to support your work.

- [OSPI K-12 Internet Access Program](#) | Connects students in need to internet access at home with no cost to the student or their family.
- [Best Practices for Using Technology with Multilingual Families Toolkit](#)

Translated step-by-step directions for multilingual families to access five common online learning management systems.

- [Canvas](#)—
[English](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somalian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)
- [Class Dojo](#)—
[English](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somalian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)
- [Google Classroom](#)—
[English](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somalian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)
- [SeeSaw](#)—
[English](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somalian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)
- [Zoom](#)—
[English](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somalian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

To ensure equal access to education for all students, school districts must provide learning activities in paper format to families who for various reasons cannot access online learning for their child.

Multilingual families may also need navigation support with accessing child care, early learning programs, nutrition and financial assistance, and mental health and other health services. The resources below provide translated resources and navigation support.

- [Resources to Support Multilingual Families—English](#)
[Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somalian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

All parents have the right to meaningful communication about their child's education. For multilingual families, this means school districts must provide essential school communications in the family's home language.

- [Translation and Interpretation Information for Districts](#) | Laws and guidance.
- [Interpretation Services](#) | State master contract with list of interpretation service vendors.
- [Translation Services](#) | State master contract with list of translation service vendors.
- [Interpretation and Translation Services for Families](#) | Translated information for parents.

RESOURCES FOR MEETING CIVIL RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS FOR MULTILINGUAL/ENGLISH LEARNERS

In the various models of reopening schools, civil rights obligations remain non-negotiable. Key civil rights obligations for multilingual/English learners include identification of eligible English

learners, English language development instruction, and meaningful access to rigorous, grade-level content instruction.

The Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 (EEOA) requires states and districts to provide eligible multilingual/English learners with English language development instruction (*Castañeda v. Pickard*, 648 F.2d at 1007-1008, 1009 (5th Cir. 1981)). In addition, eligible English learners must be provided appropriate supports for meaningful access to rigorous, grade-level content (*Lau v. Nichols*, 1974, U.S. Supreme Court). [OSPI Reopening Washington Schools 2020: Supporting Multilingual/English Learners](#) provides guidance and resources to support systems planning and English language development instruction to meet civil rights obligations for multilingual/English learners.

Failure to meet these civil rights obligations for multilingual/English learners and their families may be unlawful discrimination. Anyone who believes a school district is not meeting its civil rights obligations to multilingual/English learners and their families may file a discrimination complaint with the school district. A school district should respond to written complaints alleging discrimination in accordance with its nondiscrimination policy and procedure.

- [Responding to Discrimination Complaints](#)
- [Complaints and Concerns about Discrimination](#) (Includes translated information sheet.)

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Veronica Gallardo, Director, Migrant and Bilingual Education, at 360-725-6148 or email veronica.gallardo@k12.wa.us. For questions regarding civil rights and nondiscrimination requirements, please contact Sarah Albertson, Managing Attorney, Equity and Civil Rights, at 360-725-6162 or sarah.albertson@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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BULLETIN NO. 085-20 SP&FA

October 20, 2020

Page 4

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