

The following is a compilation of the questions from the EL Community of Practice 2020-2021 Session 4. If you have questions beyond those here, please contact alice.garcia@la.gov.

| Question | Answer |
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| <p>1. What resources are school systems using to encourage parent engagement with their EL families?</p> | <p>One resource that a school system mentioned was the Engaging ELL Parents as Leaders guide.</p> <p>The EL Toolkit has Chapter 10: Tools and Resources For Ensuring Meaningful Communication with Limited English Proficiency Parents</p> |
| <p>2. How are school systems engaging families?</p> | <p>Since school systems have different needs and resources, many are different different things. Some ideas shared during the sessions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open a Parent Resource Center ● Offer Parent workshops/classes ● Engage families through luncheons, meetings, and/or surveys ● Use family/parent liaisons ● Create websites for families ● Use social media |
| <p>3. Where can I find examples of family engagement surveys?</p> | <p>A quick internet search will bring up a few examples from other states and institutions including: Family and Community Engagement Survey Family Engagement Surveys and Checklists</p> |
| <p>4. Can ELs who enroll past the 30 day window needed to submit accommodations for LEAP testing still get accommodations?</p> | <p>Yes, but there are concerns about whether or not the student will be familiar with the accommodations listed; therefore, schools should take that into consideration when offering them. Accommodation requests that exceed that 30 day window should be submitted through assessment@la.gov.</p> |
| <p>5. How can a school system get their translators certified?</p> | <p>There isn't an actual certification for translators working in the educational field at this time. These certifications are more for individuals working in court systems or the medical field. However, there is training that translators can take. LDOE will be offering this training twice in the 2021-2022 school year. If a school system has enough people to send on their own (or in partnership with other school systems), they can contact Michelle Reinhardt at Loyola: msreinha@loyno.edu for more information.</p> |
| <p>6. Can we get a list of language translation resources by language?</p> | <p>LDOE does not maintain a list of these because the needs of school systems vary greatly. We recommend that you</p> |

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| | reach out to neighboring systems for suggestions. |
| 7. Are there any resources for addressing learning/language loss in ELs? | Achieve Funding Guidance for ELs is a recent publication that LDOE produced with suggestions of how to use the special funding that school systems are receiving. There is also the Achieve Planning Guidance . Additional tools school systems may want to use include the EL Language check-up at the start of the school year or during a summer program to assess any changes in language acquisition. |
| 8. Do high school ELs still need to keep taking their LEAP 2025 assessments in order to meet their graduation requirements? | In regular years, yes, but because of COVID-19, there is a LEAP 2025 Graduation Waiver option that uses either the ACT or extended learning hours to meet the assessment requirement. |
| 9. How can we get assessment accommodations for newly enrolled ELs who come after the 30 day window to request accommodations for LEAP testing? | If the student is new to your school system, you can email assessment@la.gov for additional guidance on how to proceed in these situations. |
| 10. Are we still under the guidelines that EL students should not be referred for a SpEd evaluation unless they have had 3 years of English instruction? | Not at all. There are no actual guidelines to this effect, and in fact, waiting could actually delay the student’s right to SPED services. Some school systems have a policy of waiting one year, but this may not be needed for students who are exhibiting a need that goes beyond language support services before that. You can find more guidance about Identifying and Supporting ELs with Disabilities . |
| 11. I would like to join LaTESOL. Is there a LA application or do I fill out the International App? | Actually, you can reach out directly to LaTESOL through their website . |
| 12. Yesterday in our chat [Cohort 3] Kevin mentioned what he used to translate documents. What was the name of it? | Kevin mentioned the organization In What Language which is a company that provides translation services for documents. There are additional organizations such as Bromberg, HolaDoctor, and many others that can be found through an internet search for “translation services” or “on-demand interpreters”. |
| 13. Are ELs able to earn a Seal of Biliteracy? | Yes! The requirements for the Seal of Biliteracy can be found here , and questions about it can be sent to the World Languages Team through language.acquisition@la.gov . |