

Almitra L. Berry, Ed.D.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT 2.0 PARTNERING WITH MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES



FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION AMONG MULTILINGUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNERS



IN OUR TIME TOGETHER

Building Authentic Partnerships

Focus on creating authentic partnerships with multilingual families beyond traditional involvement.

Valuing Home Languages

Recognize families as co-educators and value their home languages as key academic resources.

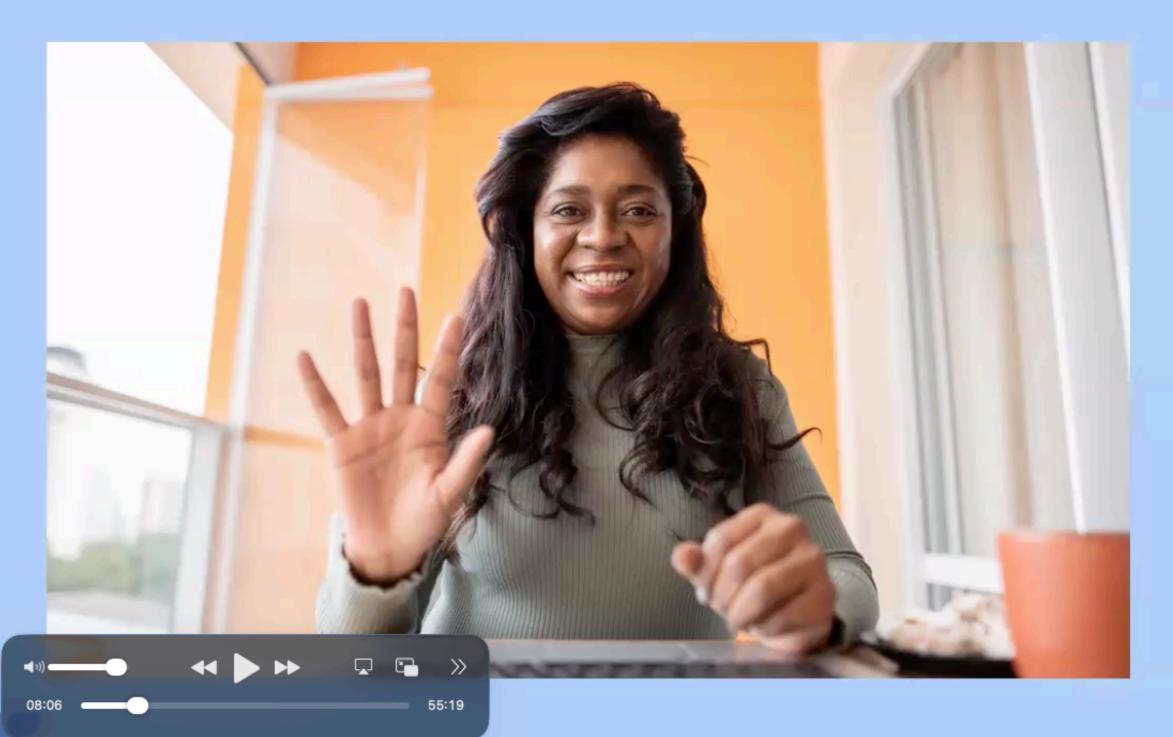
Fostering Inclusive Community

Aim to honor family wisdom and promote inclusive events where every voice is valued.

Engagement Opportunities

Interactive webinar features include chat prompts, polls, and e-book giveaways to foster engagement.

STATE, ROLE, GRADE, YEARS



CHAT WAVE



OPENING POLL

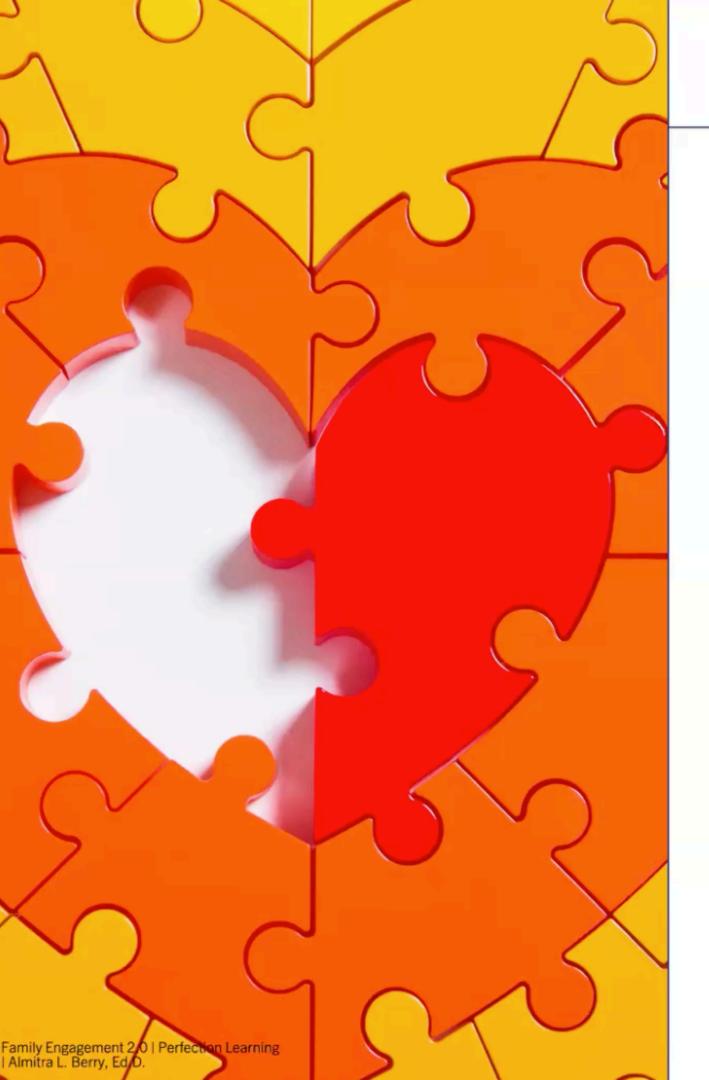
What's one word that describes your family engagement with multilingual families?

UNDERSTANDING PARINERSHIP





LET'S CHAT!



CHAT SHARE—BREAKTHROUGH MOMENTS

Multilingual Family Contributions

Families speaking multiple languages bring unique perspectives and valuable resources to the school community.

Authentic Engagement Impact

Genuine involvement of families fosters a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Inspiration Through Stories

Sharing success stories encourages others to recognize and leverage family strengths for student growth.

AUTHENTIC FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Families as Co-Educators

Authentic partnership recognizes families as co-educators who actively contribute to student learning and development.

Valuing Home Languages

Home languages are seen as valuable academic resources enriching students' learning experiences.

Inclusive Community Events

Community events promote inclusivity where all family voices are heard and respected.

Deep Reciprocal Relationships

The vision fosters genuine, two-way relationships that support cultural richness and student success.



COMMON CHALLENGES WE FACE

Language Barriers

Prevents clear communication

Creates misunderstandings

Cultural Mismatches

Misinterpretations

Reduce effective engagement

Time Constraints

Busy schedules

Limited availability

Negative Past Experiences

Distrust

Reluctance to engage



WHICH CHALLENGE RESONATES?

Language Barriers

Language differences can hinder clear communication and understanding among participants.

Cultural Mismatches

Cultural differences may cause misunderstandings and affect collaboration.

Time Constraints

Limited time can pressure participants and reduce opportunity for thorough discussion.

Past Negative Experiences

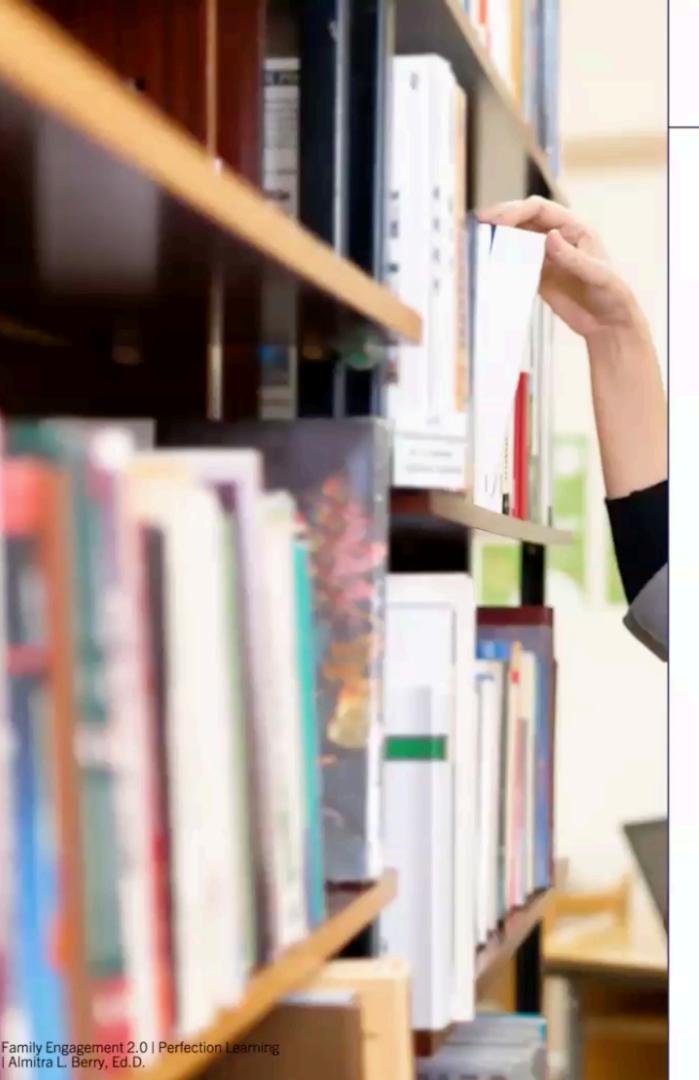
Previous negative interactions may influence current attitudes and openness.

All of the Above





10/7/25



REFRAMING: ASSET-BASED THINKING

Home Languages as Resources

Supports multilingual learning

Deepens understanding.

Cultural Knowledge in Curriculum

Enriches the curriculum

Relevance and engagement

Family Stories as Authentic Texts

Enhance literacy

Connections lived experiences

Celebrating Diverse Communication

Strengthen inclusivity

Create a dynamic educational environment

CHAT BRAINSTORM — BOOK CLUB TITLES

[CONNECTIONS]

Literature

Into, Through, and Beyond...

Collaborative Idea Sharing

Meaningful bilingual books

Culturally Relevant Literature

Reflect the culture and language of families

Promote inclusivity and connection

Quick Reflection

What resonates?



STRATEGY 1 — BILINGUAL BOOK CLUBS

Family-Led Discussions

Home language conversations

Cultural connections

Promotes Code-Switching

Language skills

Cultural understanding

Rotating Leadership

Ownership

Inclusivity

Shared responsibility

Cultural Pride and Literacy

Builds a strong, connected community



STRATEGY 2— HOME READING PROJECTS

Oral Stories Collection

Cultural Recipes Sharing

Photo and Audio Storytelling



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



3 LITTLE WORDS!

Share in the chat:

Describe the literacy strengths YOUR multilingual families can bring to YOUR classroom

STRATEGY 3 — COMMUNITY STORYTELLING NIGHTS

Multilingual Storytelling

Showcase diverse languages and storytelling styles

Cultural Performances

Music, dance, and poetry

Intergenerational Wisdom

Grandparents honored as wisdom keepers

Fostering Community Cohesion

Build cultural pride

Strengthen social ties

The Cultural Iceberg

language literature easy fine arts to see dress holidays & festivals core values biases difficul beliefs and assumptions to see manners self-concept beauty ideals relation to authority body language family values interpretations gender roles concept of justice humor approaches to health and medicine childrearing practices notions of modesty attitude toward the environment pride rules of conduct expectations attitude toward science and religion personal space work ethic attitude toward foreigners competitiveness



IMPLEMENTATION REALITY CHECK (CHAT)

Strategy Reflection

"What can I do?"

Needs Identification

"What will I need?"

Pragmatic Thinking

"What challenges will I face?"

BUILDING TRUST—THE FOUNDATION

Consistent Communication

Using home languages for communication

Asset-Based Approach

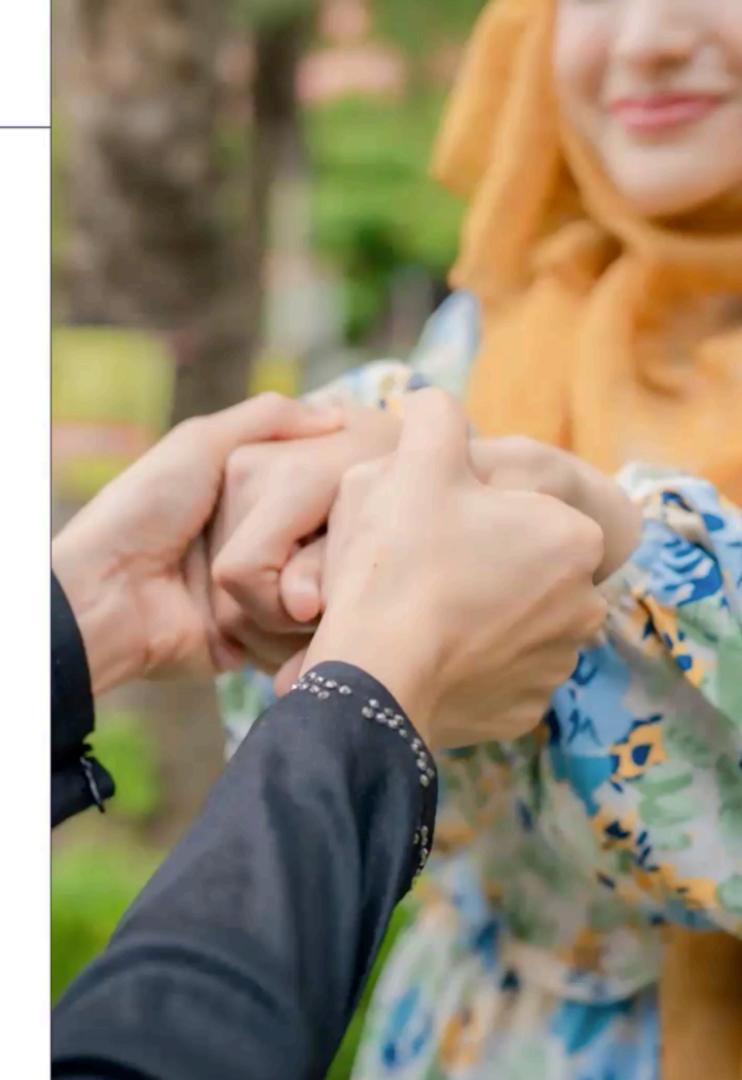
Recognizing and valuing families' strengths

Flexible Scheduling

Accommodating families' schedules

Cultural Humility

Learning from families



COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Visual Communication Tools

Use photos, videos, and infographics

Technology for Language Support

Apps that support home

Family Liaisons as Cultural Bridges

Connect diverse cultures and promote understanding

Two-Way Communication

Prioritizing interactive dialogue



GETTING STARTED



Family Asset Inventory

Conduct a survey to understand family languages, cultures, and interests to better support multilingual students.



Home Language Resources

Request books and materials in families' home languages to promote inclusivity and support learning.



Family Story Sharing

Invite families to share their stories to foster connection and celebrate diversity in the classroom.

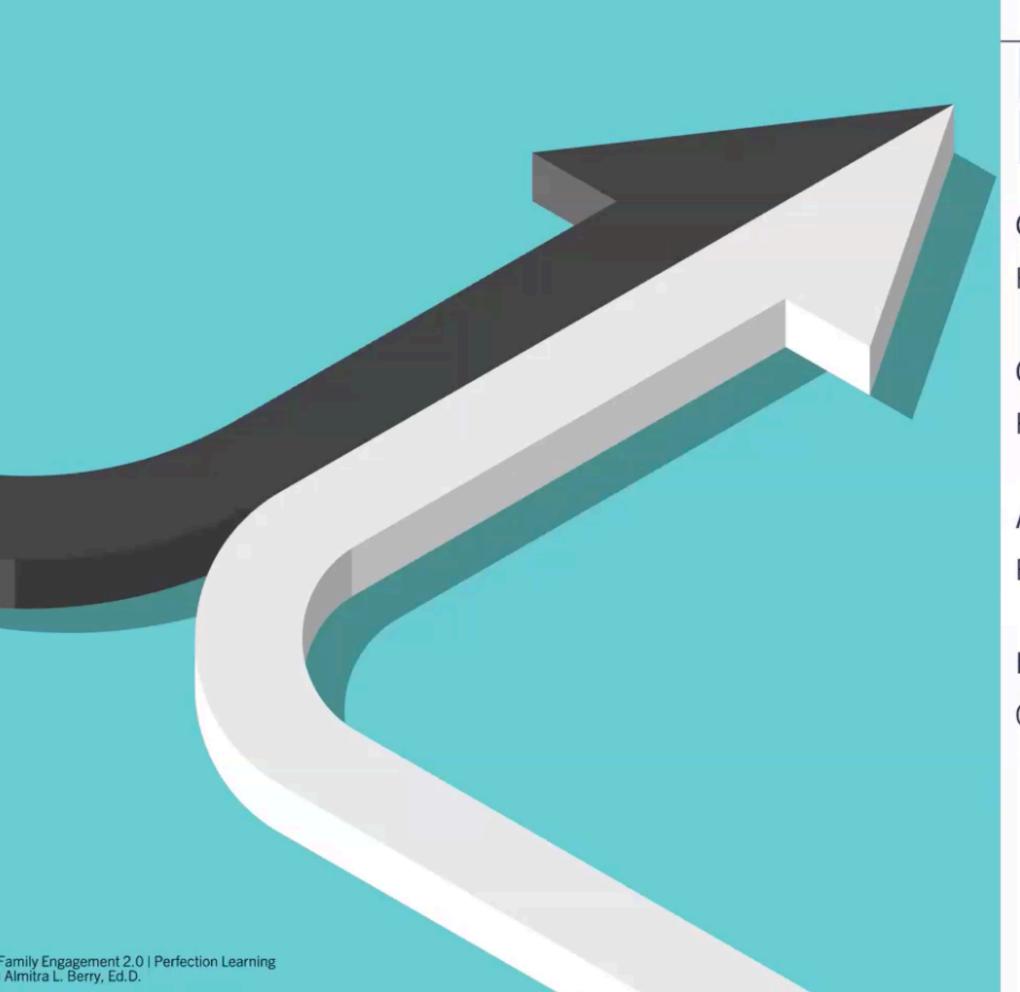
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REFLECTION & SHARING

Silent Reflection Time (30 seconds)

"How do I challenge assumptions in my daily practice?"



FINAL THOUGHT: BUILD SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Ongoing Family Engagement

Regular check-ins

Celebrating Contributions

Publicly recognize contributions

Advocacy and Policy Change

Ensure partnerships are equitable and sustainable

Professional Learning in Culture

Commitment to cultural competence



WHAT WILL YOU DO FIRST?



EXIT TICKET POLL

- I. VERY CONFIDENT
- 2. SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT
- 3. NEED MORE SUPPORT
- 4. WANT TO LEARN MORE FIRST



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- Supporting all learners who speak languages other than School English

CONNECT WITH ME:



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