

Using AI to Translate Classroom Materials

Support Multilingual Learners with AI-Powered Tools

AI tools offer fast, flexible support for translating classroom materials into multiple languages. Below are trusted tools and practical examples to help educators support students and families who speak languages other than English.

AI Tools for Translation

1. Google Translate

- Website: translate.google.com
- App: Available for iOS and Android
- Best for: Quick translations of text, documents, or websites
- Tip: Use the “Documents” tab to upload entire worksheets, parent letters, or syllabi

2. ChatGPT (Free or Pro)

- Website: chat.openai.com
- Best for: Translating, rewording, and adapting content for different language levels
- Prompts to try:
 - “Translate this science worksheet into Spanish, keeping academic vocabulary.”
 - “Simplify this text for an English learner reading at a 3rd-grade level.”

3. Canva with AI Translate ([Pro version-Free for Educators](#))

- Website: canva.com
- Best for: Translating classroom posters, newsletters, and visuals with design intact
- Tip: Use “Translate” from the app integrations menu while editing your design

4. MagicSchool AI (Free & Pro)

- Website: magicschool.ai
- Best for: Generating translated instructional materials, parent communication, IEP supports
- Features:
 - “Translate & Modify Text” tool: Translate into dozens of languages
 - “IEP Accommodations Translator” for multilingual support plans
 - “Parent Communication Generator” for bilingual emails and letter
- Tip: Select your grade level, subject, and language to tailor output automatically”

5. Microsoft Translator

- Website: translator.microsoft.com
- App: Available for iOS and Android
- Best for: Real-time conversation translation (teacher–student or teacher–family)
- Tip: Use the split-screen “Conversation” mode during parent-teacher conferences

6. Diffit (Free with account)

- Website: diffit.com
- Translate to and from over 30 languages
- Automatically simplify instructions for English learners
- Tip: Upload a reading passage or assignment and choose “Simplify & Translate” mod

AI Uses in the Classroom

For Students

- Translate instructions, word problems, or rubrics into students' home languages
- Offer dual-language vocabulary lists or glossaries
- Provide reading passages in both English and the student's first language

For Families

- Translate newsletters, permission slips, and school event flyers
- Create multilingual versions of classroom expectations or behavior charts
- Use real-time translation apps during parent-teacher meetings

For Teachers

- Translate feedback on student work
- Generate bilingual anchor charts and handouts
- Use AI to adapt content for different language proficiency levels
- Translate communication from parents

Considerations & Tips

- Always review translations—AI is not perfect!
- Ask a bilingual colleague to check critical materials when possible
- Avoid slang, idioms, and overly complex language
- Keep visuals and formatting consistent when translating instructional materials

For official and legal communication with families, we strongly encourage the use of [ParentNotices](#) by TransACT, a resource provided at no cost to districts by the [Nebraska Department of Education](#). This platform offers legally vetted documents in multiple languages to support compliance and equitable communication. For conversations that require live interpretation—such as IEP meetings—schools may contract with **on-demand interpretation services** that offer video or phone conferencing. Examples include [LanguageLine Solutions](#) and [Propio Language Services](#), which provide access to interpreters in a wide range of languages. In addition, schools may consider exploring AI-powered translation headphones as a supplemental tool to support real-time communication with families.

Need Support?

Reach out to your EL coordinator, tech coordinator, or the EL specialist from your ESU, for help setting up tools or modeling how to use them with students.



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