



## **What is a Language Access Plan, and Why Is It Important?**

A Language Access Plan (LAP) is a document that spells out how an institution will provide services to non-English speakers or people with limited English proficiency. LAP examples may include the use of signage, taglines, or translation services to help bridge language barriers.

Here are the main benefits of having a solid language access plan:

### **It's a Law Requirement**

Nearly 1 in every five people in the United States speaks another language other than English, which results in significant language differences in schools.

Here are the main takeaways from the law:

- Schools must communicate with the parents in a language they understand
- Schools must provide language assistance programs to Limited English Proficient (LEP) parents even when the children are proficient
- Schools must use competent translation resources

Schools which create a language access plan stay compliant with the law, thus, avoid legal issues.

### **It Engages Parents in their Children Learning**

Many parents want to be part of what their children learn at school. Unfortunately, language barriers can prevent them from doing so. Often, non-English speaking parents feel powerless and frustrated for not being able to help their children learn the most basic learning levels.

An excellent language access plan allows parents to stay engaged in their children's learning programs. It also motivates the students to learn more and meet the curriculum requirements with ease.

### **It Contributes To the Success of the Students**

The role of the teachers is to provide students with essential concepts that they will apply for the rest of their lives.

By having excellent translation services and other LAP plans, limited English proficient (LEP) students can easily catch up with their classwork and become more successful.

### **It Encourages More Interactions**

By embracing language access services such as interpreters at meetings and having documents translated, schools encourage positive interactions among everyone... Parents, students and schools. Communication is truly key.