

Strengthening Home-to-School Connections

Reviewed and Revised August 2025

1. Welcoming School

- Post signs in multiple languages.
- Treat visitors as guests.
- Respect visitors' time.
- Willingly answer questions.
- Post upcoming parent and family engagement events.
- Communicate with families in different ways (i.e., face-to-face, email, phone calls, virtual meetings, websites, communication platforms)



- “Tips for Creating a Welcoming School Environment”

<https://www.hanoverresearch.com/insights-blog/tips-for-welcoming-school-environment/>

2. Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Try to minimize wait time by confirming the appointment and being organized
- Share information in easy-to-understand terms (i.e., avoid educational jargon).
 - Start with positive information about the child.
- Share grade-level expectations.
- Discuss assessments.
- Communicate how assessment results will be shared.
- Suggest activities families can do at home to help their child.

- “20 Tips for Developing Positive Relationships With Parents”

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/20-tips-developing-positive-relationships-parents-elena-aguilar>

3. Cultural Awareness and Responsiveness

- Be aware of microaggression – “brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults toward people of color.” (*Taken from State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) skits on eduplanet21.com*)
- Be cognizant and respectful of cultural differences during interactions with all families.
- Help students feel comfortable sharing their diverse cultures.
- Implement social emotional learning practices.

- “Social Emotional Learning Should be Priority during COVID-19 Crisis” [Click here.](#)

We are already good at wearing the educator’s hat, but we need to take time to walk in the shoes of our students’ family members.

- “Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning” YouTube video [Click here.](#)

4. Parents of English Learners

- Provide translated materials
 - Send documents to be translated to translation_request@casdonline.org.
- Arrange for an interpreter to be available for meetings.
 - Requests for district interpreters for school events can be submitted to translation_request@casdonline.org.
 - Interpreters for individual meetings/phone calls can be reached through LanguageLine.



If parents are joining you for a conference via PHONE:

1. Dial **1-866-874-3972** (remember to add a 9 at the beginning if using a school phone)
2. Provide Client ID: **507978**
3. Indicate the language that you need (**1-Spanish, 2-other language**)
4. Provide Access Code for your school:
5. An interpreter will answer the phone. You can provide them with the family's phone number and they will call the family for you while you remain on the line.

If parents are joining you for a conference via GOOGLE MEET:

1. Open the Meet Link and click the green join button. (You will need to be the first one to connect to the meeting.)
2. A box will pop up that says, "Add others" at the top. Click "Add people" at the bottom.
3. Click the phone icon that says, "Call."
4. Enter the phone number for Language Line **1-866-874-3972** and click the green phone button.
5. A small keypad will appear. Follow the prompts:
*Provide Client ID: **507978***
*Press **1 for Spanish**. Press **2 for other languages**.*
6. *Provide Access Code* (different for each building - ask your ESL teacher or secretary for your building's code)
7. An interpreter will be on the Google Meet via phone. If the parent does not show up to the Google Meet, the interpreter can call the family while remaining in the meeting.

- Children's author and literacy advocate Pat Mora – "Partnering with Latino Parents" YouTube video [Click here.](#)

5. The Potential in Each Child

- Focus on the positive attributes of each child.
 - Be motivating.
 - Talk with your students about their feelings, and be aware of how outside influences impact student performance.
 - Remember the power of positive messages.
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- "The Power of the Positive Phone Call Home"
<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/power-positive-phone-call-home-elena-aguilar>