



LOOKing at Our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community Engagement Practices



Boston Public Schools
Office of English Learners

Today's Panel



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English Learners at a Glance

43.4%

OF BPS STUDENTS ARE EL/FEL STUDENTS

English Learners 31.6%



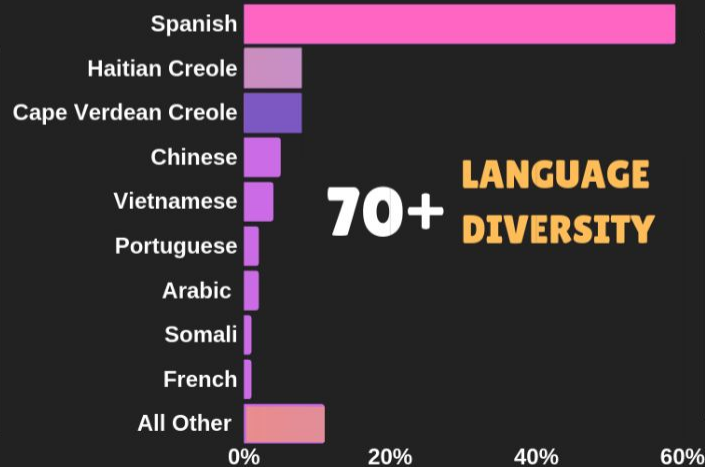
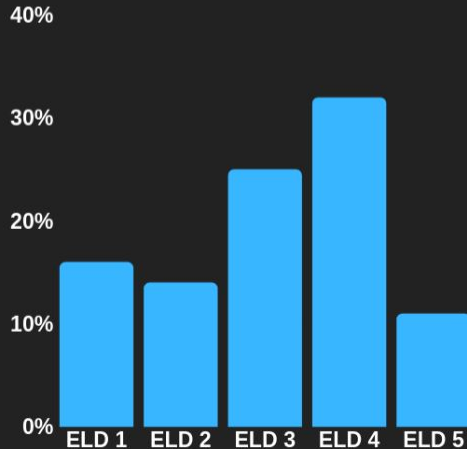
Former English Learners 11.8%



Non-English Learners 56.5%



56% of all ELs are ELD 1-3



70+ LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

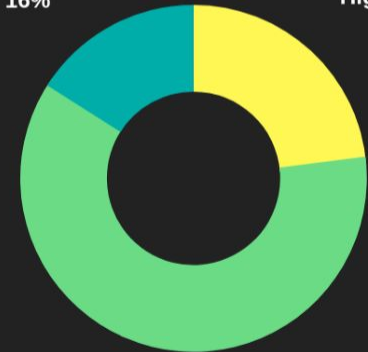
Collectively, our English Learners speak more than 70 different languages.

Middle: 6-8

16%

High: 9-12

23%



Elementary: K-5

61%

61% of all ELs are in Elementary Grades K-5

Why Language Based Community Groups

District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC): A multicultural and multiethnic, parent-led committee comprised of EL parents and community members. This committee advises on and advocates for programs and services for EL students across BPS.

- Launched in 2015-2016
- Hosts 3 annual conferences
- Leads monthly meetings
- Hosts training and learning sessions on opportunities for parents to advocate for their children

LOOK ACT 2017

1. Mandates a community engagement process for all new programs
2. Created opportunities to open more bilingual programs such as Two-Way Immersion, Heritage etc.

Language Specific Community Groups

- Each language group is facilitated by a dedicated BPS liaison who is familiar with both language and culture.
- The group is open to all community stakeholders.
 - Shared notes
 - If a member is unable to attend, this keeps them engaged
- Have a set structure for all meetings.
 - Monthly 1 hour meetings
 - Establish an agenda for the year and honor it
 - Co-draft goals at the 1st session
- Highlight areas in the community to celebrate within your calendar.
 - Special holidays or celebrations
 - Chinese New Year
 - Vietnamese Tết
 - Haitian Heritage Month



Haitian
Creole

Cape
Verdean

Vietnamese

Chinese

Our Process

Establishing a community group:

1. Invite internal and external stakeholders to participate.
 - a. Teachers, central office staff, community leaders and parents
2. First meeting is a data meeting to share out state of students in our district so that they are informed of the real needs of the community.
3. First two meetings are used to establish goals that is guided by community needs.
4. Use CAL Guiding Principles for Dual Language as a resource to build community group's knowledge around the fundamentals of establishing programs.
5. Make a priority to have the group visit schools where students in their language community are being served.



Examples/Snapshot - Second Year Community Group - Haitian Creole

Haitian Creole Dual Language Program
OEL/Haitian Community Meeting Agenda



Month	Topics of conversation
September	Meeting Sept 27, 11AM@Boiling (Date to be confirmed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Purpose of Group • Topics to be discussed • Setting goals for SY18/19 • Reviewing Learnings from Haiti Trip
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look Act • Update on Haitian Students and programs • Haitian Kreyol Month • Lending Library
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look Act • Haitian Kreyol Language Conference
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haitian Kreyol Language Conference • Visiting Other Language Programs in BPS
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting Other Language Programs in BPS • Haitian Heritage Month Essay Contest Planning
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting Other Language Programs in BPS • Launch the Haitian Kreyol Essay Contest
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for Haitian Heritage Month
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for Haitian Heritage Month
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haitian Heritage Month • Essay Contest
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Sy18/19 • Establishing 19/20 goals

Community Group Achievements:

- ★ Organized learning trip to Haiti
- ★ Partnered with community based experts for curriculum development
- ★ Identified champions in the community to push forward needs at all levels (political, fiscal, school based engagement)
- ★ Officially named Haitian Creole DL program -Toussaint L'Ouverture Academy
- ★ Featured community leaders in a lecture series on culture
- ★ Students performing at Haitian Flag Day at Boston City Hall

Examples/Snapshot - First Year Community Group - Vietnamese



Vietnamese EL/DL Language Program
Community Meeting Calendar
SY 2018-2019

Month	Agenda Topics	Need
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Look Act: Community voice ✓ Discuss types of current programming structure ✓ Follow up data from July meetings ✓ Full moon festival - 	1. OEL - DL program application
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BPS Engagement: Discussing Student/Parent Engagement Sy18/19 ✓ Planning for Vietnamese New Year ✓ DELAC Conference- in November 	2. Request data from ODA
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Program Planning Template ✓ Debrief Learnings from DELAC Conference ✓ Identify schools to visit ✓ Planning for Vietnamese New Year 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Program Planning Template ✓ School visit - Hernandez ✓ Planning for Vietnamese New Year 	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Program Planning Template ✓ School visit - Murphy ✓ Vietnamese New Year 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Program Planning Template ✓ Preparing for DELAC 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Debrief from DELAC <input type="checkbox"/> Invite Vietnamese Teachers to discuss Curriculum framework 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Black Friday: Vietnamese Flag Day <input type="checkbox"/> Au-Co Preschool RFP 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Review Goals established for June 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Review Goals established for June / <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Frame for Vietnamese Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Outline of a plan for implementing a program that includes stakeholders and committed resources. 	

Community Group Achievements:

- ★ Identified champions in the community to push forward needs at all levels (political, fiscal, school based engagement)
- ★ Featured community leaders in a lecture series on culture
- ★ Community identifying need for Vietnamese world language programming as an alternative option
- ★ Converting community based preschool into a alternative dual language program

Reflections

- Community voice has to be valued and respected
 - They will present new thoughts and ideas. Be willing to try them out!
- Central office needs to be intentional so community feels supported.
- Process is replicable once developed.
- Leadership development was intrinsic and not something we realized at the beginning.
- One language group does not equal one voice.
 - Not all community members have the same vision
- There will be obstacles.
 - Stay committed. Be ready to weather the storm.
- Internal team is three tiered
 - Instructional
 - Programming
 - Community engagement





“Language is so much more than communication - it is a deeper connection to everything else going around you like traditions, food, history, oral story telling ... everyone has a history and it is part of you that is past down and can't be lost”

-Vietnamese Community Member





Questions?



Thank You!

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