

# ELL Family Connection

## Information for Families of English Language Learners

Aberdeen School District  
December 2021

### Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Elementary Programming:

The Aberdeen School District is committed to elementary English Language development and supports. New this year is an English Language teacher at each elementary building that provides daily intervention and instruction for all identified EL students. Some program highlights are:

- Intervention and instruction in the four domains of EL development: reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Instructional focus on academic vocabulary and sentence development using Frames for Fluency
- Writing organization using Step Up to Writing
- Learning to use different resources and to complete book studies and research projects

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Miller Junior High and Aberdeen High School Programming:

EL classes at the middle and high school have been working on improving all of the four foundational skills of language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The next focus will be on writing and test preparation after the upcoming Winter Break.

In November, Aberdeen High School was proud to present the Latinx Youth Summit. This seminar provided Latino students the opportunity to learn about education pathways after high school, celebrate their multicultural heritage and positively focus on their futures.

The middle and high school EL teachers, along with the MTSS teams, are collaborating on a family event in January. The event will focus on understanding the upcoming WIDA assessment; EL programming; and collaborating with families. More information will be sent out regarding this event.

### WIDA: English Language Proficiency Assessment

The annual WIDA ACCESS assessment is an online annual assessment given to all students who qualify for English language development (ELD) service, and takes place of the ELPA 21 assessment given in past years. The annual assessment measures students' English language proficiency, both knowledge and skills, in reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Results from this test determine which students remain eligible to continue receiving ELD services.

**Who:** All students that qualify for EL services in grades K -12

**When:** The WIDA Assessment will be given in February-March 2022.

**Where:** The WIDA Assessment will be given at each school building in the district.

**Why:** Results from this test determine which students remain eligible to continue receiving ELD services.

**How:** The assessment will be an online assessment that will be administered over the course of two to four days.

### Want more information about the WIDA Assessment?

Please attend your child's school EL Family Night. More information will be sent home with students in January!

### **Calendar of Events:**

- **Winter Break: No School**  
December 20<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- **Family Nights:**  
AJWest: TBA  
McDermoth/CP: January 20, 2022  
Robert Gray: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Stevens: February 3, 2022  
AHS & Miler: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- **WIDA Assessment:**  
February 2022 - March, 2022

### **District Contact Information**

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### **Bilingual Children: How to Improve their Language Skills**

<https://kidworldcitizen.org/bilingual-children-improve-language/>

Raising bilingual children is a lifelong journey. Providing our children ways to boost their language skills on a daily basis will give them the support they need to become proficient speakers in all of their languages.

**Here are 6 things families can do to improve their children's language skills:**

1. **Create the need:** Encourage your children to speak the languages that they know. Practice increases their ability to speak a second language, while increase their academic understanding and abilities.
2. **Read to and with your children every day:** The more words they hear, the larger their vocabulary becomes.
3. **Play music and sing songs:** This will increase their range of vocabulary which can be easily memorized to a melody.
4. **Cook together:** Cooking is a fun activity that the whole family can enjoy, and is a great way to learn new vocabulary and practice math skills.
5. **Use language apps:** Many apps introduce new vocabulary and help to improve the use and application of learned vocabulary skills.
6. **Make it fun:** Simply spending time together doing activities that you and your child enjoy will improve your bilingual children's language skills. Let your child take the lead and show you what they like to do, and make it a learning experience.