

Breaking Down Language Barriers: Tools that Make Every Student Shine!





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Multilingual Learners

- Two or more languages
- 1 in every 10 in public school
- 5 million in the USA public schools
- Florida ranks 3rd in the US with 360,000 students
- Florida's MLL students speak 243 languages



Multilingualism and Diversity

01

Multilingualism is a strength, not a weakness

02

**¡Todos ganamos!
(Everyone wins!)**

03

Creates a better, more accessible environment for all students



Super Powers

MLs have incredible cognitive flexibility and metalinguistic awareness. They are code-switching and problem-solving constantly.

Accelerating

Universal Design for Learning (UDL). What is essential for MLs is simply good teaching practice for native English speakers, too.



Translation and Communication Wizards

Tools that go beyond basic translation to support real-time communication between students, families, and teachers across language barriers.



DEMONSTRATION – Deep L



- Captures tone
- Professional emails to a family
- The free version is strictly for snippets

DEMONSTRATION - Immersive Reader



- Reduces the noise
- Voice Speed
- Professional emails to a family

Immersive Reader

- Teachers who use stations in their room can have a reading selection pulled up in Immersive Reader for an independent reading intervention experience
- A student who may be self-conscious reading aloud to the class can use Immersive Reader to have the text read aloud to them first, allowing them to feel more confident when reading aloud independently
- Multilingual students may have a high fluency but their comprehension is low. They can use Translate to build their comprehension by understanding the words in their native language

TalkingPoints

01

Ultimate Tool for Family Engagement

Texts parents in their native language while keeping the teacher's dashboard in English

02

No App Required for Parents

Teachers type messages in English, but parents receive them as a text in their language

03

True Two-Way Translation

A parent texts back in their native language, but it is translated into English

04

Privacy Shield

Teachers can text parents directly without ever giving their personal numbers

05

150 languages

Free accounts for teachers to use and translates into 150 languages

DEMONSTRATION – Magic School



- Text Leveler
- Text Translator
- Text Summarizer
- YouTube Questions
- Report Card Comments
- Email Family

Translation and Communication Strategies

- Use translation tools for important documents like IEPs, report cards, and school policies.
- Create a library of commonly used documents already translated into your school's primary languages
- Consider technology tools like Google Translate, Microsoft Immersive Reader, or even Magic School, but always verify accuracy for critical information.
- Send communications home in families' native languages whenever possible
- Provide translated versions of key resources on your school website and ensure enrollment materials are accessible in multiple languages

Tools for Differentiation

DEMONSTRATION – Diffit



- An article, video, or topic can instantly be adapted to match any student's reading level with a single click.
- Automatically generates vocabulary lists, comprehension questions, and bilingual translation

DEMONSTRATION – Newsela



- 5 reading levels per article
- Free = Newsela Lite
- Google Classroom Integration



Show Student Understanding

Power Projects

Student Expression & Showcase Platforms Multimodal tools that let students demonstrate their knowledge through drawing, audio, video, or bilingual writing — moving beyond English-only assessments.

Many are Voice & Audio Tools, voice-to-text, recording, and audio playback tools that allow multilingual learners to express themselves verbally when written English feels limiting.

How do MLs show what they know before they have the English vocabulary to write a standard project?

DEMONSTRATION – Book Creator



- Bilingual authoring
- Add voice or video
- Multi-language translation
- Incorporates all 4 domains

DEMONSTRATION – Padlet



- Gallery
- Options to post responses
- Additional strategies for multilingual students

DEMONSTRATION – Adobe Podcast



- Recording + Transcript
- AI Powered Enhance Speech
- Use to create Podcasts for your MLLs with transcripts to follow

Visual Learning & Vocabulary

Visual Learning & Vocabulary Building

- Apps and platforms that use images, diagrams, video, and visual scaffolds to make content comprehensible regardless of language proficiency level.
- Interactive platforms that help students acquire, practice, and retain academic and content-specific vocabulary across multiple languages.

Visual Supports for Instruction

01

Use graphic organizers, anchor charts, and visual schedules

02

Incorporate labeled diagrams, infographics, and flowcharts that pair vocabulary with images

03

Display word walls with pictures, cognates, and translations

04

Use color-coding systems to highlight key information, text structures, or grammatical patterns

05

Create visual step-by-step instructions for routines, assignments, and multi-step tasks



Multimedia and Technology Tools

- Integrate videos with subtitles or captions in multiple languages to support comprehension
- Leverage text-to-speech and speech-to-text tools to support reading and writing
- Create digital vocabulary journals with images, audio pronunciations, and student-generated examples

Content Creation Opportunities



Encourage students to create bilingual books, posters, or presentations that showcase their home language as an asset



Incorporate collaborative projects where multilingual learners can contribute through visuals, research, or peer support roles



Provide choice boards with various ways to show understanding—comics, art, video demonstrations, etc.

DEMONSTRATION – Canva for Edu



- Library of templates and more
- Easy to create videos
- Create colorful anchor charts, bilingual word walls, and visual lesson supports.

DEMONSTRATION – TeachVid



- Listening + Reading + Writing
- Five free per month
- Ready-to-go resources
- Differentiate the activities with translation and difficulty levels

DEMONSTRATION – Genially



- Multi-sensory learning experience
- Embed invisible, interactive text-to-speech and audio descriptions directly behind clickable images and hotspots.

DEMONSTRATION – WordWall



- Community area
- Language and game options
- Create and assign activities

10 Tips to consider:

- 1 Honor the Home Language
- 2 Use Visuals & Graphic Organizers
- 3 Provide Sentence Frames & Starters
- 4 Give More Wait Time
- 5 Use Strategic Partnering & Grouping

10 Tips to consider:

- 6 Pre-Teach Key Vocabulary
- 7 Make Input Comprehensible
- 8 Offer Multiple Ways to Show Learning
- 9 Build Cultural Connections
- 10 Celebrate Progress, Not Just Proficiency

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- Adapt-a-Strategy
- MLLs special topics pages
- Infusing Technology Blog posts



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