



# Checklist

## Creating a Welcoming Schoolwide Environment for ELs and Their Families

Directions: Review each of the following action steps to decide if these are strategies that you are currently using at your school or not. Determine possible action steps for creating a more welcoming environment for parents of ELs.

### Strategy

At our school, do we....

1. Display student work and photos on the walls?
2. Have signs in multiple languages?
3. Display maps and flags of students' home countries?
4. Have a multilingual greeter to welcome students and parents?
5. Provide staff opportunities to learn some common phrases in parents' home languages and key information about parents' cultures?
6. Have multilingual staff and volunteers that are visible throughout the building and classrooms?
7. Provide parents with information about their and their children's rights and responsibilities in their language?
8. Have books in our ELs' home languages in the school library and classrooms?
9. Connect new families with a contact person who speaks their home language and offer tours of the schools in home languages?
10. Host events specifically for EL parents (e.g., back-to-school events, events to help parents learn more about the school and school leaders) and address challenges to parent participation?

Yes	No	Possible Action Step
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Adapted from Breiseth, L., Robertson, K. & Lafond, S. (2011). A guide for engaging ELL families: 20 strategies for school leaders. Washington, DC: Colorin Colorado. Retrieved from: [http://www.colorincolorado.org/sites/default/files/Engaging\\_ELL\\_Families\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.colorincolorado.org/sites/default/files/Engaging_ELL_Families_FINAL.pdf) and Staehr Fenner, D. (2014). *Advocating for English Learners: A Guide for Educators*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.