

What: Community Engagement through Inclusive and Accessible Board Meetings

Who are we as an organization or institution? What is our **mission and vision**? Who do we **serve**, and how do we serve them all through an **equity and inclusion lens**?



Promise to our Community

*All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community. **Our students are the future.***

📅 2024 -2025 WSD Languages, Liaisons' Availability and Countries Represented by ...

Involving non-English-speaking families in school or state board of education meetings is crucial to ensuring inclusive decision-making. School boards can establish a more inclusive environment by adopting best practices strategies that respect and include the voices of all families, regardless of their language proficiency.

We can employ the following strategies to help us achieve this goal:

Language Access Services

Translation and Interpretation: Provide real-time translation services during meetings, either in-person or via remote technology. Offer written materials in multiple languages.

Multilingual Staff/Liaisons: Hire or designate staff members fluent in the predominant languages of the community to assist with communication.

Community Outreach

Engagement Campaigns: Actively reach out to non-English speaking families through community organizations, local businesses, and cultural centers.

Informative Workshops: Host workshops or information sessions in various languages to explain the meeting processes and topics.

Accessible Communication

Multilingual Materials: Distribute meeting agendas, minutes, and reports in multiple languages before the meetings.

Website Accessibility: Ensure that the board's website includes translation options and resources for non-English speakers.

Feedback Mechanisms

Surveys and Input Forms: Provide surveys and input forms in multiple languages to gather feedback from families who cannot attend meetings.

Community Advisory Committees: Establish committees with representatives from diverse language backgrounds to provide input on board matters.

Flexible Meeting Formats

Hybrid Meetings: Offer both in-person and virtual attendance options to increase accessibility.

Family-Friendly Scheduling: Schedule meetings at times that accommodate working families, and provide childcare if possible.

Culturally Relevant Practices

Cultural Competency Training: Train board members and staff on cultural competence and the importance of including diverse voices.

Celebrate Diversity: Recognize and celebrate cultural diversity in meetings, which can help create a welcoming environment. Ref: [Cultural, Religious and Awareness Holiday Calendar 2024](#) - Double check for accuracy

Follow-Up and Support

Post-Meeting Engagement: After meetings, provide summaries and outcomes in various languages to keep families informed.

Continuous Improvement

Regularly assess the effectiveness of these practices through feedback from families and make adjustments as needed.

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