



## Five Best Practices for Supporting Multilingual Learners

Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers many opportunities for multilingual learners (MLs) as it helps them develop the skills and knowledge required for future success. Despite MLs' language barriers, we can ensure that CTE programs become enriching avenues for MLs to thrive with careful strategies and dedicated support.

Here are five best practices to guide you in effectively supporting MLs in your CTE programs:

- 1. Foster a Welcoming Environment:** Create a classroom culture that celebrates diversity and MLs' home languages and promotes English language acquisition. Train faculty and staff in culturally responsive practices and provide resources in multiple languages. Display visuals and signage in English and other languages commonly spoken by your MLs.
- 2. Scaffold Language Development:** Integrate language learning into the curriculum. Use visuals, graphic organizers, and real-world examples to explain technical concepts. Encourage collaborative learning activities where MLs can practice English in a supportive context. Provide access to language learning resources and technology tools like translation apps and audiobooks.
- 3. Differentiate Instruction:** Tailor your instruction to meet the individual needs of your MLs. Assess their English language proficiency levels and adjust the complexity of tasks and materials accordingly. Offer alternative assessments that focus on understanding concepts rather than language fluency. Provide additional support and scaffolding for MLs during hands-on activities and projects.
- 4. Partner with Families and Communities:** Engage with families and community organizations to understand your MLs' cultural backgrounds and learning experiences. Collaborate with parents and community members to develop culturally relevant learning materials and support systems. Ensure clear communication with families in their preferred language.
- 5. Continuous Improvement:** Regularly monitor the progress of your MLs and adapt your support strategies as needed. Collect data on their academic performance, English language proficiency, and participation in CTE activities. Seek feedback from MLs, families, and educators to identify areas for improvement.

Embracing MLs in your CTE programs is an investment in the future. By implementing these best practices, you can break down language barriers, empower MLs to succeed, and create a learning environment where all students can thrive. Take the first step today. Embrace diversity and witness the transformative power of CTE for every student, regardless of their language and cultural background.

Resources: [National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition and Language Integration Programs \(NCELA\)](#) • [Improving Equity and Access to Quality CTE Programs for English Learners](#)