



# OUSD LANGUAGE ACCESS FAIR

Helping OUSD Families Connect and Communicate

DELLS & Translation Services

**AUG. 23, 2024**

If you find English a bit tricky, you should know that:

Some people speak different languages at home. Maybe you and your loved ones speak another language better than English.

Sometimes, if you need to talk to people at important places like the doctor's office or at your school, you might need help to understand and speak English.

Special helpers called interpreters are experts. They are trained. They studied and practiced a lot to interpret and explain things in the language that you best understand.

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There are laws for places that get money from the government, like hospitals or schools. One of those laws says that these places must try to help everyone understand what's going on, even if they don't speak English well.

## **Must your school talk to you in a language that you understand?**

Absolutely, yes! Schools need to share important information with you in a way that you understand. This includes:

- Signing up for school and programs
- Report cards
- School rules and policies
- Parent handbooks
- Discipline and behavior issues
- Disability services, including special education services
- Parent meetings
- Parent-teacher conferences

## **What if I need help?**

Don't worry! If you need help with language, just ask! Schools must help you even if your student speaks English well. Your student should not be the helper, meaning students should not interpret.

## **Can my schools ask my students or other students to help interpret?**

Nope! Schools cannot ask kids or untrained staff to interpret. They must get someone who knows how to do it right. They must get someone who is trained to interpret in your language or dialect.

### **How do schools know if parents need language help?**

School districts and schools must have a plan to find out if parents need this help. One example of what our district does is ask in the registration form what languages are spoken at home. This question must be translated in writing into the common languages of the area.

The goal for the district and all schools must be to identify all of the parents who need help in their language.

### **What do schools do to make sure parents get the language help they need?**

Schools:

- Give you translated papers or interpreters for free.
- Make sure that interpreters know both languages really well.
- Make sure that interpreters know all the special terms (school words)
- Make sure they know interpreting techniques and rules.

Remember, your school is here to help you understand everything, so don't be shy to ask for what you need. You've got this! 💪🌟

Offer parents the DoE/DoJ handout. Have copies of the different languages available. I sadly could not locate a version in Arabic.

*"If you want to learn more about these laws,* link to a document that explains in detail what your rights are to language interpretation and translation:

<https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-lep-parents-201501.pdf>