

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ADVOCACY

Anne Ferreira

District Family Engagement Liaison



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ADVOCACY

Diversity & Inclusion Advocacy addresses the challenge of achieving a strong connection between the district's international and culturally diverse families. We recognize families of English Language Learners as a valuable part of school communities and the overall success of the schools. It is our goal to bridge communication gaps with our non-english-speaking communities and diverse cultures, by offering resources and information through several outreach platforms, communicate in their spoken languages and advocate on their behalf. We will accomplish this by ensuring that the following actions are taken:

- **Strengthen home-school partnerships on behalf of ELL students**
- **Recognize and build upon our ELL parents' strengths**
- **Harness the energy and ideas of staff, ELL parents, and students in shaping partnerships**
- **Engage school-wide staff members beyond the ELL/ bilingual departments**
- **Advocate for and allocate resources on behalf of ELL families**

Our first step in realizing this goal is the creation of the ***Welcome to DCSD: Exploring Our School District*** resourceful online program. This workshop series will assist the parents and their child(ren) in making a smooth transition into the school community. Also, it will equip them with the knowledge necessary to navigate new educational experiences, and receive additional information regarding the supports available to promote the success of their child(ren).

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Parents will have an opportunity to attend 8 sessions. Each session includes lessons, exercises, as well as a final project. The final project will be beneficial to the parents, their children, and the community. This workshop series will be available in Spanish initially. It is our intention to deliver this program in the top 10 languages.

SESSION	DATE/TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Parent Involvement Basics	09/29/2020 10:00 AM	Parents learn what parent involvement means and how crucial they are in the educational attainment of their children.	Virtual Click Here To Register
Structure of the School and District Overview	10/06/2020 10:00 AM	Parents learn how schools are finance and managed. Parents will become familiar with their school board and the people involvement in the decision-making process.	Virtual Click Here To Register
Technology – Learn the Programs we Use as Support Tools	10/13/2020 10:00 AM	Parents will have an overview the programs we use as support tools.	Virtual Click Here To Register
Communicating with Teachers	10/20/2020 10:00 AM	Parents learn how to effectively communicate with teachers and ask key questions to ensure their children educational needs are met and they are performing at grade level.	Virtual Click Here To Register
Parents Rights & Responsibilities	10/27/2020 10:00 AM	Parents learn their rights and responsibilities as parent and the chain of command to problem resolution.	Virtual Click Here To Register
High School Success	11/03/2020 10:00 AM	Parents will learn options and opportunities in high schools, so their children graduate and are able to move to the workforce or college.	Virtual Click Here To Register
Road to College	11/10/2020 10:00 AM	Parents learn the academic and financial requirements in order to attend college.	Virtual Click Here To Register
Parents as Education Agents	11/17/2020 10:00 AM	Parents will learn how to work with other parents, leadership skills, and how to effectively advocate to improve their schools.	Virtual Click Here To Register



CULTURAL AWARENESS

Our cultural awareness initiative is designed to be exciting, interactive and thought-provoking. Workshop activities will encourage participants to do a deep dive into the issues that surround culture including how it feels to be an outsider, how language can complicate communication and the rewards that come from making the effort to overcome prejudice and learn from those who have different beliefs and ways of doing things. We will also use the power of role-play to create empathy and practice new skills learnt.

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION ADVOCACY

Facilitate translations and interpretations of standardized communication documents in an effort to promote effective school family partnerships. We will work in close collaboration with The International Welcome Center to develop necessary tools, and the Family Friendly Schools Initiative & Volunteerism Program to create a database of volunteer translators and interpreters to assist with non-official needs.

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

We will promote and support the creation and development of school-wide cultural activities such as International Day/Nights, Hispanic Heritage month and Cultural Festivals. These activities will promote greater understanding of our differences while encouraging conversations that help us learn about our commonalities.