

1: EL Family Engagement Checklist

Area of EL Family Engagement	Scale: 1 (Lowest) to 5 (Highest)
1. Our school (or district)* advocates for its EL families who have not yet developed their own voice in the school context.	1 2 3 4 5
2. Our EL families participate in their children’s education as much as our non-EL families	1 2 3 4 5
3. Our school has high expectations of EL families.	1 2 3 4 5
4. Our school understands our EL families’ perspectives.	1 2 3 4 5
5. Our school conducts home visits with its EL families.	1 2 3 4 5
6. Our school is flexible and creative in providing alternative schedules, locations, and kinds of events to involve its EL families.	1 2 3 4 5
7. Our school values its EL families’ home languages and cultures	1 2 3 4 5
8. Our school communicates information well to EL families.	1 2 3 4 5
9. Our school has an acceptable rate of EL family volunteers in classrooms and for events.	1 2 3 4 5
10. Our school helps EL families locate health care so that our EL children come to school healthy.	1 2 3 4 5
11. Our school develops EL family leadership so that families can serve as their own advocates.	1 2 3 4 5
12. Our school has a plan to increase EL family engagement and advocacy.	1 2 3 4 5

*Please substitute “district” for “school” when appropriate.

Adapted from Staehr Fenner, D. (2014). Advocating for English learners: A guide for educators. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

2: EL Family Engagement Advocacy Scenarios

Elementary School

While your elementary school has an active parent volunteer community, you've noticed that there are no EL parents involved in volunteering. You've sent out information to EL parents in their home languages to encourage them to volunteer, but still no EL parents have expressed a desire to volunteer at school. You would like to collaborate with your school's volunteer coordinator and administrators to ensure EL parents are included as volunteers and take on meaningful volunteer roles.

Middle School

Your middle school PTA president and administrators are complaining that despite there being a significant number of ELs in the school, none of the EL parents have joined the PTA or attend PTA meetings. PTA meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. They feel that families of ELs are not interested in supporting the school. You would like to brainstorm some ideas with the PTA president and your school administrators to increase EL family attendance and engagement.

High School

Your high school has a robust program for parents of junior and senior students to provide them information about high school graduation and options after high school. These monthly meetings are held during weekday evenings, and the school's guidance counselors are tasked with planning the content of the meetings and doing the parent outreach. While many fluent English-speaking parents attend the meetings, you notice that your ELs aren't represented. You'd like to work with the counselors and school administration to increase EL family engagement in the graduation, college, and career information program.

3: EL Family Advocacy Application

EL Advocacy Step	Guiding Question	Talking Points & Anticipated Pushback	Other Leadership and Advocacy Strategies
1. Isolate the issue	What EL family advocacy issue do we have control over?	Talking point: Pushback: Talking point:	
2. Identify your allies	Who is open to collaborating with us around this issue?	Talking point: Pushback: Talking point:	

EL Advocacy Step	Guiding Question	Talking Points & Anticipated Pushback	Other Leadership and Advocacy Strategies
3. Be clear on the rights of ELs	Are there any relevant school, district, state, and/or national policies or regulations that impact ELs around this issue?	Talking point: Pushback: Talking point:	
4. Organize and educate others	How will we bring stakeholders together around this issue?	Talking point: Pushback: Talking point:	
5. Identify your outlets for change	Will we focus our advocacy at the classroom, school, district, and/or community level? How?	Talking point: Pushback: Talking point:	

4: EL Family Advocacy Action Plan Template

Top EL family advocacy issue in our context:	
EL family advocacy objectives:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
Resources needed:	
Allies needed:	
Our Practical Steps	Advocacy Actions: What Will You Do First, Second, and Third?
Our first step	First, we will
Timeline:	
Our second step	Next, we will
Timeline:	
Our third step	Finally, we will
Timeline:	
EL family advocacy action plan take-aways:	