

# HOW TO BE A LANGUAGE-FRIENDLY SCHOOL



- ✓ Encourage students and families to use their home languages.
- ✓ Celebrate all languages to prevent exclusion or bullying around languages, dialects, or accents.
- ✓ Work with your school MLL contact or Department Head to create a Language Friendly school environment.



## CREATING A LANGUAGE FRIENDLY SCHOOL PLAN

### SCHOOL LEVEL

- Include languages, dialects and accents in equity initiatives and resources.
- Promote the importance of home languages with the school community.
- Foster teacher-caregiver collaboration to support student learning.
- Create awareness of multilingual language acquisition and development.
- Identify all the languages spoken within the school community.
- Facilitate communication in the caregivers' home language.
- Consider creating a language-friendly library.
- Promote the International and Indigenous Languages program.

### CLASSROOM LEVEL

- Include students' home languages as part of the learning process.
- Connect with your school MLL contact or department head for resources and strategies to support language-friendly classrooms.
- Reflect on personal values and attitudes towards language, cultural and ethnic identity.
- Encourage all students to develop their whole language repertoire, including dialects and accents.
- Share and regularly update approaches and materials.
- Promote written, oral, gestural and graphic student communication.
- Use multilingual resources to encourage the use of home languages in the classroom.



The Waterloo Region District School Board offers language classes for Elementary and Secondary (credit) students through the International and Indigenous Languages Program (ILLP). Please visit the ILLP website for more information, or email: [iilp@wrdsb.ca](mailto:iilp@wrdsb.ca).

Home languages include any spoken, written, or gestural Indigenous or International languages, dialects, and accents.