

## 1.4 Possible Questions for Interviews, Surveys, Focus Groups, or Informal Chats

Topic	Possible Questions or Prompts
Educational Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where were you born?</li> <li>• What countries have you lived in?</li> <li>• Tell me about your schooling before you started at this middle school/high school.</li> <li>• When you were in elementary school, how did your teachers help you learn English?</li> <li>• Did you go to a special English language development class? What did you do in that class?</li> <li>• Have you ever had bilingual classes or instruction in your heritage language(s)? What was that like for you?</li> <li>• Did any of your teachers ever use your heritage language(s) in class? What was that like for you?</li> <li>• Did you change schools during your elementary education? How often? Did you change schools during your middle school education?</li> </ul>
Linguistic Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which language(s) do you speak with adults in your home?</li> <li>• Which language(s) do you speak with siblings in your home?</li> <li>• When you speak with bilingual friends, which language(s) do you use?</li> <li>• In which language(s) do you prefer to read for fun outside of school (texts, chats, games, books, websites, articles, etc.)?</li> <li>• In which language(s) do you prefer to write outside of school when texting, writing lists, sending emails, and so forth?</li> <li>• Which language(s) do you consider your most proficient or “best” language(s)? Why?</li> <li>• If you have a choice to read or write in any language in a class in school, which language would you choose? Why?</li> </ul>
Current Academic Experience at School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When do you feel most successful at school? Why?</li> <li>• Do you feel motivated to succeed at school? Why or why not?</li> <li>• What do you like about school?</li> <li>• What is challenging or frustrating for you at school? What kind of assignments are most difficult for you (essays, readings, extended projects, etc.)?</li> <li>• What is your favorite subject at school? Why?</li> <li>• How do your teachers support you?</li> <li>• What could your teachers do to support or challenge you?</li> <li>• What do you do when you are having difficulty in a class, with homework, or with a project?</li> <li>• Which classes do you think will be most useful for you in the future? Why?</li> </ul>

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Sense of Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What activities are you involved with at school (clubs, sports, volunteer activities, etc.)?</li> <li>• How do you feel about your peers? Do you feel respected by other students in your classes?</li> <li>• Do you have a group of friends at school?</li> <li>• Is there a teacher, coach, or other adult at school that you feel close to? What do you like about that person?</li> <li>• What is something you wish your teachers knew about you?</li> <li>• How do you perceive yourself as a student at this school?</li> </ul>
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell me about the adults who live in your home.</li> <li>• Who do you feel closest to in your family? Why?</li> <li>• How do you help your family or around the house (chores, work, child care, etc.)?</li> <li>• Do you have any siblings? Tell me about them.</li> <li>• What do you like to do at home or with your family members?</li> </ul>
Other Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you like to do outside of school or school-related activities?</li> <li>• Are you involved in community organizations (church, youth groups, community sports, music groups, etc.)?</li> <li>• What brings you joy?</li> <li>• What are your hobbies or personal interests outside of school?</li> </ul>
Future Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would you like to do after high school?</li> <li>• What goals are you most excited to achieve by the end of middle school/high school?</li> <li>• How have your experiences and education influenced your interests for the future?</li> <li>• How could this school best support your plans for the future?</li> </ul>