

RESOURCE 2.2

Collecting Language Samples in Multiple Languages as Part of the Enrollment Process

Gathering oral and written language samples in multiple languages, if possible, should be part of overall data collection during the initial enrollment of K–12 students. Here are some suggestions for planning performance assessment that can readily be converted into a checklist.

In preparing for gathering performance data in multiple languages, have multilingual learners:

- Choose their preferred language, even if only available for instructions; then ease into the other language, if necessary
- Become familiar with the task
- Feel comfortable with the situation, to the extent feasible
- Select from multimodal resources such as action-packed, cross-disciplinary pictures, photos, or graphics
- Become acquainted with any equipment or technology
- Choose to use technology for keyboarding (for students in fourth grade and beyond) or paper and pencil for their written sample
- Listen to instructions in two languages or read instructions in two languages side by side to maximize comprehension
- Ask clarifying questions to each other in their preferred language

In addition, the following surveys may be helpful for districts and/or schools (see Gottlieb, 2016, 2021) as part of enrollment or during the beginning of the school year. Students respond as to whether they use English, their other language(s), or multiple languages in a variety of situations. The information from these surveys will help educators better understand the impact of multilingual learners' language practices on learning.

1. Language Use Survey
2. Oral Language Use Survey
3. Literacy Use Survey
4. Personal Interest Survey