



DISTANCE LEARNING NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

English Learner Support Division
California Department of Education



A Letter from the California Department of Education (CDE)

DEAR PARENTS,

Each week, this newsletter will focus on a different theme and will provide information and resources to parents on that theme.

This week the topic is multilingual education, or instruction provided to students in a language other than English. In this issue, you will find resources for kindergarten through grade 12 students who are learning another language. Remember, even if your child is not enrolled in a dual language program, it is good for your child's brain to learn in their home language. Building literacy in the home language also helps build literacy in English, too!

New Informational Resources

Grades and Graduation

Local districts will decide their grading policies for distance learning. It is recommended that grading policies be made with equity in mind and with the primary goal of ensuring that grading policies do no harm to students. Please see the [CDE FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements](#) for further details.

Local grading policies should consider different student groups including English learners, homeless, foster youth, and those who do not have access to technology and materials. Any changes to learning strategies or grading policies for students with disabilities should be done within the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

A class can be offered as credit/no credit, pass/fail, or a modified A–D. The university systems are willing to accept credit/no credit grades in lieu of letter grades for all courses, including A–G courses, completed in winter/spring/summer 2020 for all students.

It is expected that districts will enable students to complete graduation requirements through distance learning. More information on graduation requirements is available on the [CDE Graduation Requirements web page](#).

Please contact your child's teacher or school personnel for any questions about grading and graduation.

Multilingual Home Learning Resources:

Below are free recommended resources that you can use with your children at home or they can use on their own.

Spanish Elementary Resources

Unite for Literacy

This website offers a variety of picture books with the text in either English or Spanish. You can also select a read-aloud language from a large menu of additional languages. Students can turn the pages at their own pace.

<https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>

Lectura Interactiva

This website includes stories in Spanish with comprehension quizzes to accompany each story.

<https://bit.ly/LecturaInt>

Spanish Secondary Resources

PBS Learning Media

This website offers resources by grade level, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, in Spanish. Resources cover a variety of subject areas in Spanish including math, science, social studies, and language arts.

<https://bit.ly/PBSLearningResources>

Newsela en Español

This website includes news articles in Spanish that can be customized to fit the student's reading level.

<https://bit.ly/NewselaEsp>

Resources in additional languages on page two!



Early Edge California Coronavirus Resources

The [Early Edge California Coronavirus Resources for Families](#) include information on paid family leave, tips for discussing coronavirus with kids, handwashing guides for young children, and educational activities and resources for young learners.

Californians Together Alas y Voz Coronavirus Resources

The Californians Together Alas y Voz [Crisis del Coronavirus: Recursos para Families](#) web page contains information about the coronavirus in Spanish including information about medical care, school lunches, mental health, and much more.

California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) Facebook Group

Join the [CABE Bilingual Resources Facebook Group](#) where parents and educators can share multilingual resources for distance learning.



Informational Resources Included Every Week

School Lunch Information: CA Meals for Kids App

Parents can still pick up school lunches during COVID-19 related school closures. Use the "CA Meals for Kids" mobile app to find meals or you can contact your school district directly for more information. Some districts now offer home delivery for school lunches. Parents should contact their child's school to see if the school has opted into this optional program. [News Release: CA Meals for Kids App Update](#)

Getting Internet Access

If you do not have access to the internet at home, there are several companies offering service to families. Contact the companies listed on the link below to discuss available plans. [Getting Internet Access: Available Plans](#)

Resources Available in Multiple Languages

Duolingo

This is a free language learning tool available in a variety of languages including Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Russian, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Arabic, English, and many others.

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

Storybook Canada

This website offers stories from the African Storybook available with text and audio in multiple languages including Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Arabic, Urdu, English, and many others.

<https://www.storybookscanada.ca/>

Covibook

This website provides an illustrated guide to help discuss COVID-19 with young children. This resource is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, and many other languages.

<https://bit.ly/CoviBookKids>



Social Media and Email

To stay up to date with new resources and information, follow the CDE English Learner Support Division on Twitter [@MultilingualCA](#).

To subscribe to the English Learner Updates Listserv, send a blank email to join-english-learner-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov.