

Virtual Book Club

PURPOSE



This engagement event will provide families of English learners with an opportunity to select topics (through virtual access to articles, books, newspapers, etc.) to engage in literacy activities conducted in English or the parent's primary language. This event helps parents become active participants in their child's education because they are modeling learning and collaboration with others.

TARGETED OUTCOME



To increase the number of families of English learners who are equipped with the English language skills to support their English learner in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

AUDIENCE



- Parents and Families of English learners
- Parents and Families of Immigrant students

DURATION OF TIME



Try to keep the training under one-hour for parents. If you are not able to cover all sections within an hour, consider breaking it up into a series of trainings.

THINGS TO CONSIDER



Considerations to increase success:

- Do attendees have access to internet?
- When and how will this event be promoted?
- Whom do attendees contact if they want more information about the event?
- Will attendees need an interpreter or language translation support?
- How will LEAs capture feedback from attendees after the event(s) and incorporate their input?



Considerations to reduce issues:

- How will materials (electronic and printed) be distributed before, during, and after the event?
- Do attendees have a device in the home to be able to participate in the event?
- Will a moderator be needed to help monitor questions during the event?
- What supports will be provided if attendees need help throughout the event?
- How will attendance be captured in order to follow up with attendees after the event?
- How will attendee's input be gathered to determine the best times to provide this event?

TIPS & IDEAS



- Survey attendees via form or phone call to determine what technology platform participants prefer to use. The structure of the book club will be largely influenced by parent feedback.
- Consider literacy levels of parents. (Conduct an informal survey or phone call to ask parents about their interest and comfort level with literacy activities).
- Invite or elect a cultural broker that can inform the group about culturally relevant items that may come up in the reading of the text.
- Printed material of the topics discussed could be mailed to families prior to the event and hosted on Google Classroom.
- Printed materials such as Q&A one pagers could be sent out via email or text highlighting points from the sessions and also highlighted on Google Classroom.
- After each session, a recording of the summary of the topics discussed could be mailed to the attendees. Attendees could have some "homework" or something to report back as an accountability piece.
- Establish norms for the virtual book club (roles, times, behavior, etc.). Small groups could be brought in to do a discussion in person.
- Create simple login instructions for attendees to access the event depending on the platform that is chosen.
- Notify and remind attendees through phone calls, emails, text message alerts, and/or social media of the event opportunity.
- Send out information for internet access [Internet Providers: Keeping Families Connected](#).
- If using Zoom and attendees need interpretation support during the event use the [Zoom Language Interpretation Feature](#).
- Have facilitators assist attendees with signing on options such as calling in or providing one pagers via email or text.
- Having a moderator to help users get in and answer any questions that may occur in the chat is helpful. This will also help the presenter know what is happening on the screen and can jump in if there are any technical issues.
- Make sure to save the chat for attendance, or send out a separate Google Form link to document their attendance.