

## Why is vocabulary so important?

Vocabulary is the key to your child understanding what is heard and read in school and for communicating successfully with other people. For this reason it is very important to quickly build descriptive, technical, and precise language. Research studies have shown strong links between having an extensive vocabulary and achieving school success.

## How can I help my child learn vocabulary?

- Encourage your child to read! Reading is the simplest and fastest way to build vocabulary.
- Make vocabulary study cards with your child and practice them at home.
- Talk to your child about what is learned in school to help reinforce academic vocabulary.

## How do parents get involved?

- Attend school and district ML events and meetings. Ideas from parents will improve services to children and families!
- Support English language acquisition at home by utilizing strategies learned from ML staff.
- Ask the school to provide an interpreter when necessary at school meetings and events

## Language services can be accessed in a variety of ways:

- By calling or emailing the school, teacher, school administration, or district office
- Leave a voicemail message for the appropriate Arlington School District interpreter.

## Addressing Concerns and Complaints

Under state and federal civil rights laws, you have the right to access information in your language. If you have concerns about the school's interpretation or translation services - or if you were not offered an interpreter or translation you needed, you have several options.

1. Talk with your principal or a school employee you are comfortable with.
2. Talk with your school district, including Karl Olson at 360-618-6210 or [karl.olson@asd16.org](mailto:karl.olson@asd16.org)
3. Ask for help resolving your concerns from this agency.

Equity and Civil Rights Office Office of the Educational  
Office of Supt. of Public Instr. Ombudsman  
360-725-6162 206-729-3251  
[www.k12.wa.us/equity](http://www.k12.wa.us/equity) [oeo.wa.gov](http://oeo.wa.gov)

4. You can file a complaint, in writing, and send it to the district by mail, e-mail, or hand delivery in any language.

## DISTRICT NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

### TITLE IX/SEX EQUITY OFFICER AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Mr. Eric DeJong  
Executive Director, Human Resources  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6212  
[edejong@asd16.net](mailto:edejong@asd16.net)

### HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING (HIB) COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Mr. Eric DeJong  
Executive Director, Human Resources  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6212  
[eric.dejong@asd16.org](mailto:eric.dejong@asd16.org)

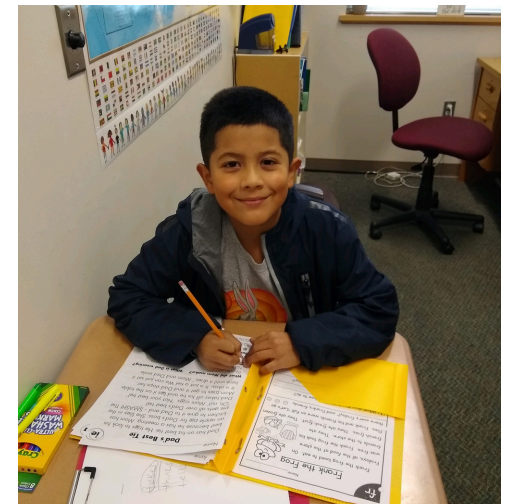
### SECTION 504/ADA COORDINATOR

Ms. Kerri Helgeson  
Director of Special Education  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6228  
[kerni.helgeson@asd16.org](mailto:kerni.helgeson@asd16.org)



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**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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## MULTI-LINGUAL PROGRAM IN ARLINGTON: WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW



UPDATED SEPTEMBER OF 2025

## ML Program Description

- All qualified students receive supports in learning English and accessing the content taught in their classes.
- Elementary students receive supports from trained staff in small groups and within the general education classroom.
- Middle and high school students receive supports from trained staff within the general education classroom and, if eligible, within a specifically designed class period.

### How do students qualify for Arlington's ML program?

When a student first enrolls in Arlington Public Schools, parents complete a Home Language Survey. This survey asks what language(s) did your child first speak or understand, what language does your child use the most at home, and what is the primary language used in the home, regardless of the language spoken by your child. If the answer to either of these questions is a language other than English, the student takes the WIDA Screener. This brief assessment determines a student's skill in listening, speaking, reading, and writing English.

### How long do students receive services through the ML program?

Students continue in the program as long as they need help learning English. The WIDA ACCESS Annual Test is given to measure student's growth in English language knowledge and skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students successfully transition from the program when they meet the exit criteria on the WIDA.

## Meet Our ML Staff

Karl Olson  
Director of Categorical Programs  
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karl.olson@asd16.org

Dorcy Neuman  
K-5 ML Coordinator  
dorcy.neuman@asd16.org

Janli Weston  
6-8 ML Coordinator  
janli.weston@asd16.org

Kim Contreras  
9-12 ML Coordinator  
kimberly.contreras@asd16.org

Jeannette Reid  
High School Interpreter-Tutor  
(206) 569 8602 - Spanish  
jeannette.reid@asd16.org

Lorencita Muniz  
Middle School Interpreter-Tutor  
(425) 477-9259 - Spanish  
lorencita.muniz@asd16.org

Marta Ledesma-Garcia  
Eagle Creek Interpreter-Tutor  
(206) 659-7810 - Spanish  
marta.ledesma-garcia@asd16.org

Nataliya Kushner  
Russian and Ukrainian Interpreter-Tutor  
(360) 207-1916  
nataliya.kushner@asd16.org

Mariana Zamora-Santos  
Pioneer Interpreter-Tutor  
Call School at 360-618-6230 - Spanish

Melliam Rodriguez Ortiz  
Presidents and Kent Prairie Interpreter Tutor -  
Spanish  
(425) 312-3197  
melliam.rodriguezortiz@asd16.org

## Reading is important.

Educational researchers have found that there is a strong correlation between reading and academic success. In other words, a student who is a good reader is more likely to do well in school and pass exams than a student who is a weak reader.

Tips for improving reading:

- Turn on closed captioning when watching TV and movies at home.
- Encourage all reading. Comic books and magazines can provide a good reading experience.
- Discuss the books your child is reading. Ask your child what the author's main theme is, or how the characters are alike or different.
- Look for audio books to supplement what your child is reading. Listening along is an easy and fun way to become a better reader.

## Family English Classes

We will be offering free English language classes to parents and guardians of ML qualified students. This class will be provided within one of our district schools and will also provide tips on how to support your child with their education. Information will be provided to families about registration approximately one month before each class is offered.