
NABE Weekly eNews: April 1, 2020

Honoring National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month: Supporting Our Multilingual & Immigrant Students Amid COVID-19

The Coronavirus outbreak has impacted communities across the United States and around the world. People from all walks of life have been adversely affected in many ways during this extremely challenging time of uncertainty. Our multilingual and immigrant students and families are considered to be one of the most vulnerable populations affected due to the disruption of the academic and socioeconomic support they receive at school.

To help these students continue their learning, the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE) and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) under the direction of County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, are making three recommendations to help prioritize resources for districts and schools during this global pandemic and school closure to student attendance.

1. Create a sense of community by finding ways to connect with students and families through formal or informal means. For example, teachers can reach out to students or their families directly through email or a phone call.
2. Identify the following available resources and opportunities:
 - Meals for students and/or families
 - Multilingual resources including interpretation and translation to communicate updates in a timely manner. Parents and students provided with where and how to access resources in schools and communities.
 - Mental health support such as a “Live Phone Line” in which parents can call the district to seek support regarding their questions or concerns in multiple languages.
3. Ensure instructional continuity by providing Internet and technology access to students, and support students in the absence of technology with home learning kits. Also, make resources available to serve students’ English language development needs.

With all communication we will continue to support a safe environment that encourages creative expression, and assure our school community that any racist and xenophobic comments will not be tolerated.



April is National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month! NABE was proud to play an instrumental role in working with former Congressman Mike Honda and the SCCOE in initiating this landmark celebration, which honors nearly five million multilingual learners, their families and educators across our country. During this time of unprecedented changes, NABE and the SCCOE are even more committed to responding to the urgency and the concerns that are being felt for multilingual and immigrant families across school communities. We understand it may be difficult to find and access resources and have provided a list of services with important information. You can access the list of curated resources [here](#) or you can also share your resources via Twitter using #nationmla and #MultilingualAdvocacy. You are also invited to join any of the following free events.

1. Super Monday Webinar

Topic: My Name, My Identity: Building a Sense of Belonging

Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 • 6 – 6:30 PM EST • 5 – 5:30 PM CST • 4 – 4:30 PM MST • 3 – 3:30 PM PST

Zoom Link: bit.ly/mynamebelong2020; Mobile: +16699006833, 847383656#

2. Super Monday Live Tweet Chat

Topic: Providing Access through Leveraging the California English Learner Roadmap

Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 • 6 – 6:30 PM EST • 5 – 5:30 PM CST • 4 – 4:30 PM MST • 3 – 3:30 PM PST

To participate: #nationmla, #MultilingualAdvocacy

3. National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month Virtual Celebration – Celebrating Districts in Santa County

Theme: Embracing Diversity: Building Our Future

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 • 6 – 7 PM EST • 5 – 6 PM CST • 4 – 5 PM MST • 3 – 4 PM PST

Zoom Link: bit.ly/mlacelebration2020; Mobile: +166990 06833,629831191#

This global pandemic has brought many people together to fight the disease and to help each other. The future of our thriving global society requires citizens from around the world to work together regardless of language and geographic boundaries. The process of learning a new language and culture nurtures empathy, humanity and global competence, which are crucial to accelerating the world's social, political, economic, cultural, educational, health, and technology advancement.

NABE greatly appreciates the valuable contributions of our members. You are NABE and NABE is us!

– Yee Wan, Ed.D., NABE's 45th President, 50th NABE Conference Past Presidents' Committee Co-Chair, Director, Multilingual & Humanities Education, Santa Clara County Office of Education