

Crafting School Language Policies

Objective	Participants craft school language policies that are aligned with their school values.
Time to Complete	1 hour
Materials and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Video “Importance of Students’ Home Languages” (PeelSchools, 2017; available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1J-ftbFaMc)● Handout: “Crafting School Language Policies” (available on the companion site for this book, www.tesol.org/swel-leadership)● Access to a computer, the internet, speakers, projector, white board.● Optional: Article “Classrooms Need to Reflect the Different Home Languages of Students” (Blackley, A.; available at https://www.weareteachers.com/many-different-home-languages/)
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Make hard copies or share digital copies of the Crafting School Language Policies handout.● Cue up the video.

Directions

Part I

1. Begin by asking the group to free-write and share responses to the following questions:
 - a. Have you or a relative experienced language loss of or exclusion from a family language?
 - b. If so, how did you or the family member experience this? If not, how would you imagine this experience feels?
2. Show the video. When finished, ask the group to divide into groups of three to four and discuss the following questions:
 - a. What are some strategies presented in the video to support and maintain home language?
 - b. How does your school currently work to preserve the home languages of students?
 - c. How does your school collaborate with families to preserve home languages?

Part II

1. Distribute copies of the Crafting School Language Policies Handout. Ask participants to fill out the first page of the document independently.
2. After all participants have filled out the first page, ask them to share their responses in groups of three or four.
3. On the second page of the guide, have each group collaboratively write 5 language policies for the school. When finished, ask a group representative to write their 5 policies on the board.
4. Cross off any policies that appear more than once.
5. Ask participants to mark their top 5 policies with an X on the board.
6. Erase all policies but those 5 with the highest number of X's. Transfer them to a new document and disseminate. Refer to these policies often.