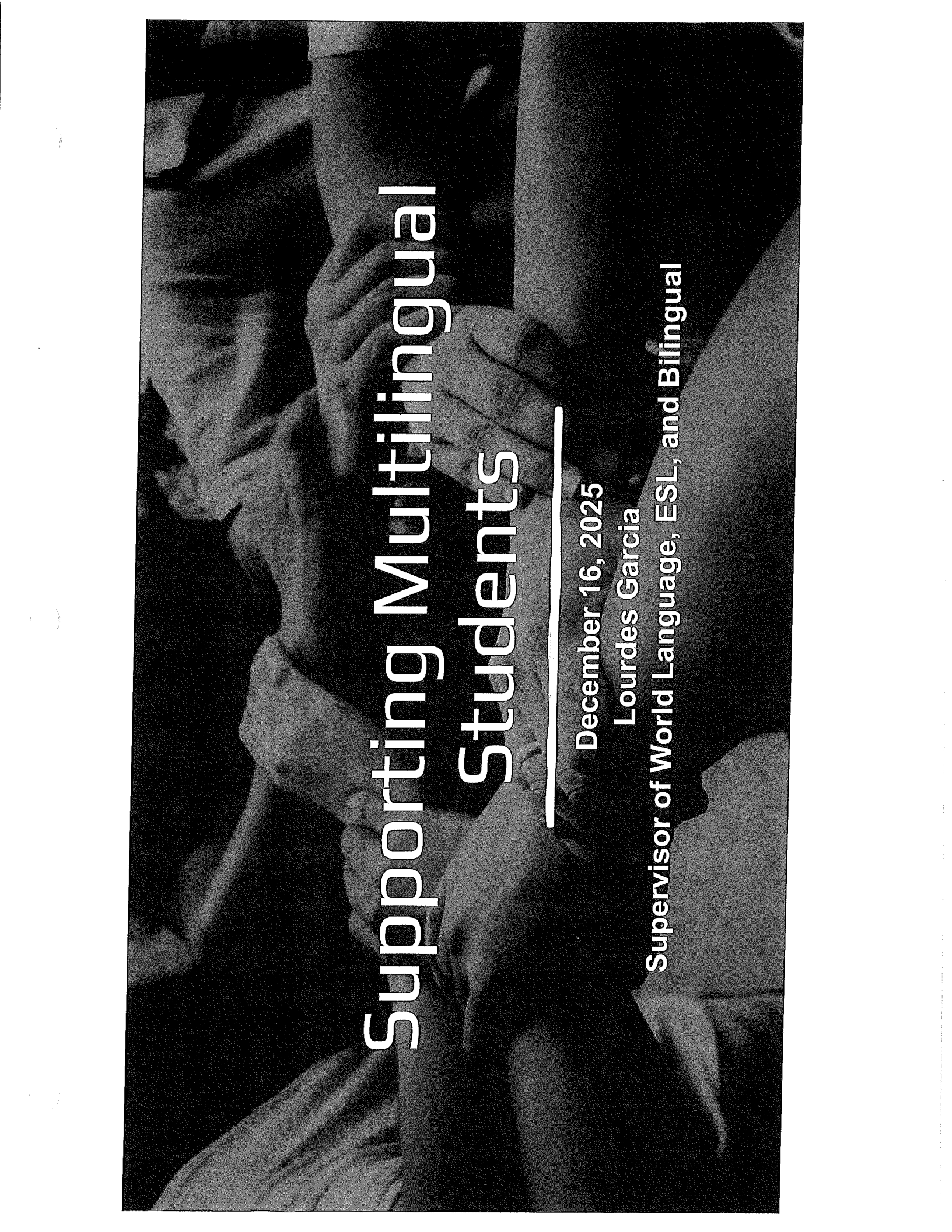




Supporting Multilingual Students

December 16, 2025

Lourdes Garcia

Supervisor of World Language, ESL, and Bilingual

Who are Multilingual Students and what do they face?

Multilingual learners are students who are developing proficiency in multiple languages.

This includes *both* students learning English as an additional language in school *and* students learning another language in addition to English.

Language
Barriers

Limited Access
to Resources

Cultural
Adjustment

Trauma

Academic
Levels

Socio-economic
Hardships

Gaps in
Education

Family Support

Role of the Department

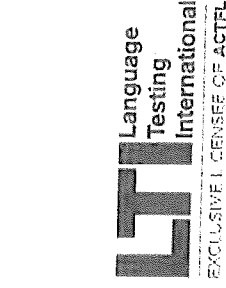
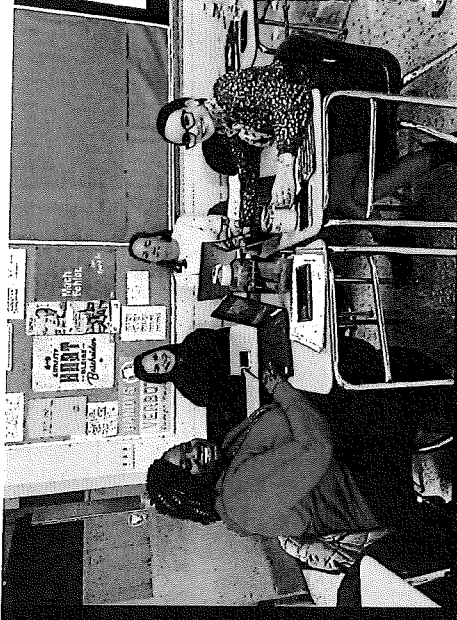
- Provide a welcoming and nurturing environment that focuses on students' assets rather than their areas of need
- Be examples for students of what multilingualism looks like and the advantages it can bring
- Support families in their students' (and sometimes their own!) multilingual journeys
- Ensure district compliance with New Jersey Bilingual Code

2025-2026 Department Goal:

We will use data to inform our instructional and placement decisions.

Who are our staff?

- ESL/Bilingual Education Staff - 15
- World Language Staff - 15
- Speak multiple languages including Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, German, French



- Union is also registered as a testing site for LTI to assist teachers looking to gain certification

ESL, Bilingual, and World Language Programming

ESL/Bilingual

pull-out ESL in K-5

daily ESL courses in 6-12

Spanish Bilingual Algebra I,
ELA 9, ELA 10 at UHS plus
High Intensity ESL

World Language

Spanish exposure K-4

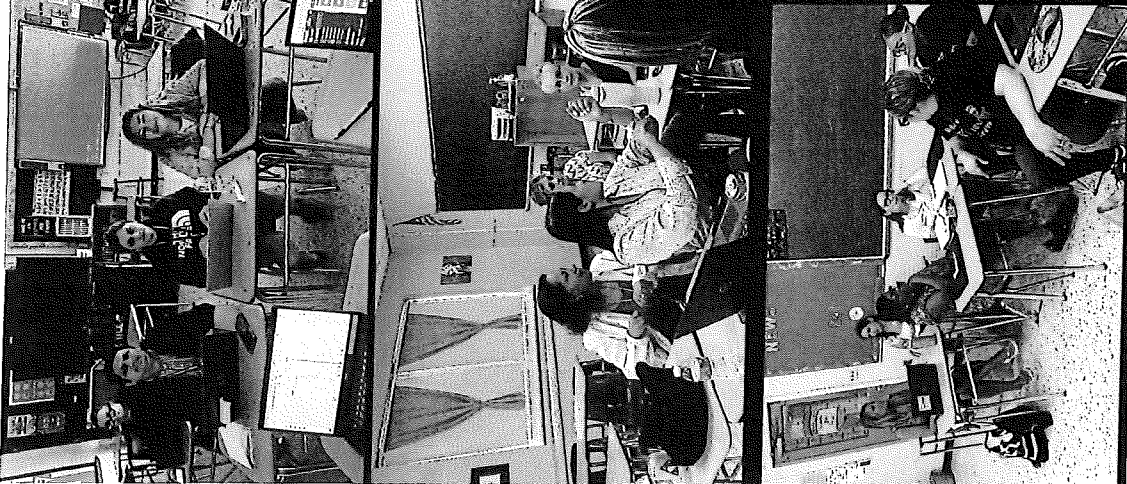
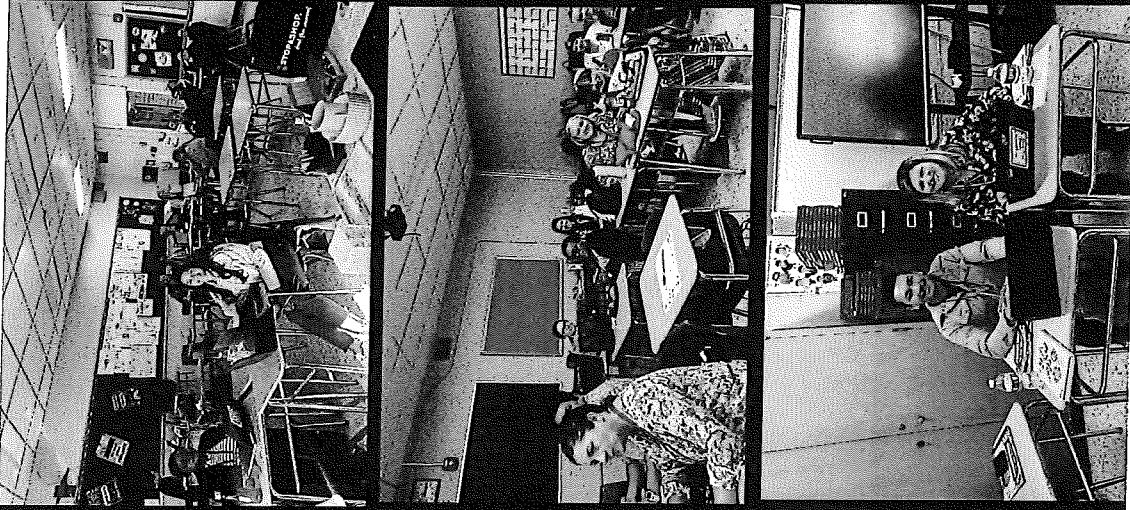
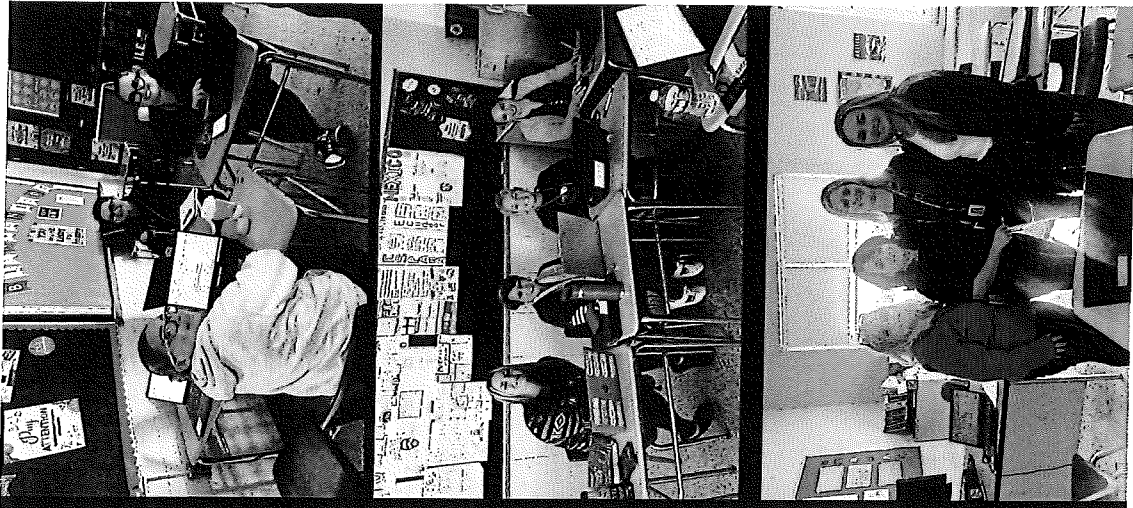
Spanish course 6-8

Spanish, French, German in
9-12 including Levels 1-5,
Honors, AP,
and Heritage Speakers

2025-2026

What have we done so far? - STAFF

- PD focused on language acquisition instructional strategies, effective use of available resources, using data to target instruction
- Department Meetings and PLCs focused on collaborative planning using backwards design thinking, scaffolding, cultural sensitivity, code compliance, grading, common assessments, formative assessment
- New teacher support onon Danielson, Genesis, SchoolFi, classroom practices
- Implementation of updated and new resources to meet student need
- Teacher access to data dashboards
- Collaboration with Special Education, Principals, and ELA Department



2025-2026

What have we done so far? - STUDENTS

- Peer Mentoring at UHS by French and Spanish National Honor Society
- ESL Tutoring Services
- ESL Penpals
- Revamped Newcomer Curriculum
- New Spanish Bilingual Algebra I, ELA 9, and ELA 10 Courses
- Ongoing monitoring for English proficiency (exiting)
- Revamping our FLEP (former LEP) monitoring procedures

SOB IT
 CARAN WIKIS

UNDERSTAND
 Me gusta

ROUTINE
 Me gusta

NEIGHBORLY
 Me gusta

CURIOSITY
 Me gusta

INTELLECTUAL
 DISABILITIES

PROTESTIVE
 Me gusta

PECUNIAR
 Me gusta

CONNECTIO
 Me gusta

GRAPHIC
 Me gusta

USUERY
 Me gusta

DEPENDENT
 Me gusta

COMULANT
 Me gusta

COSTA RICA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

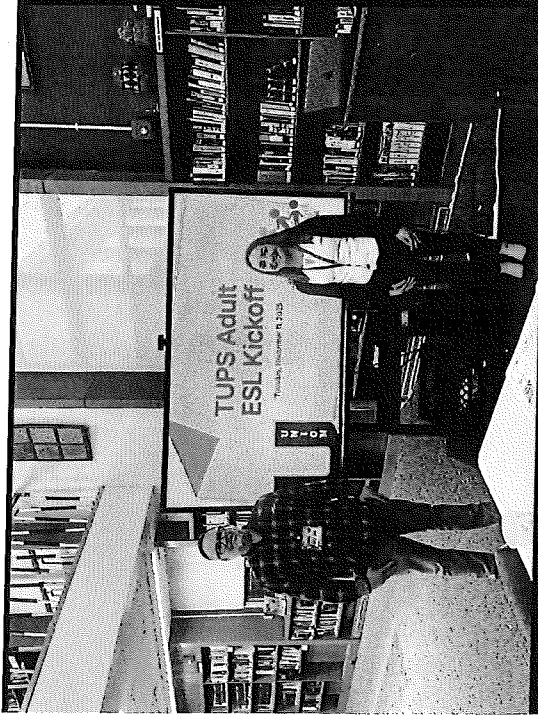
DA
 Costa Rica

DA
 Costa Rica

2025-2026

What have we done so far? FAMILIES and COMMUNITY

- MPAC Committee
- Adult ESL Year 2
- Culture through Food with Pomptonian
- Partnership with Union Public Library
- Participation in Union/Essex Multilingual Learner Admin Committee
- Attendance at ALAS, NJTESOL
- Parent/Guardian workshops on literacy for multilingual students
- Partnership with Kean for World Language and ESL teaching candidates
- Expanding ESL Tutoring to Union High School

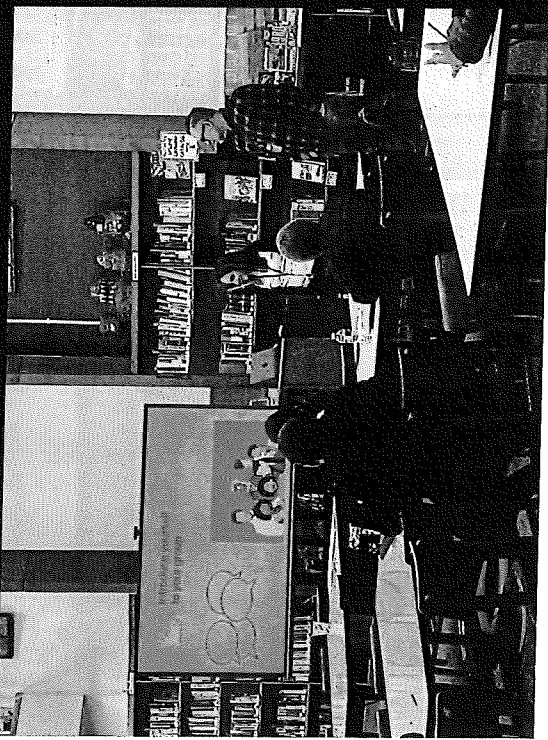




**ANCHORED
IN PURPOSE**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES.
NEW INSIGHTS.
CONNECTIONS.**



2025-2026

What are we looking forward to?

- Seal of Biliteracy testing for multilingual Juniors and Seniors at UHS
- IMSE training for ESL teachers
- Bilingual Read Alouds to celebrate Read Across America Week
- Access Testing for ESL students
- AP Testing for AP World Language Students (French, German, Spanish)
- Union Public Library orientation for MPAC
- Family Engagement Nights (Literacy, Game Night, Cultural Celebrations, etc.)

