

Step 1: Review the current landscape and data on multilingual learner achievement and experiences.

In Step 1, a district or school considers their existing policies and practices for multilingual learners and conducts a review of different data sources regarding multilingual learner achievement and experiences.

TEACHER FOCUS GROUP PROTOCOL

Conduct focus groups with a sample of teachers in your district to inform your curriculum adoption through better understanding their perceptions of how they utilize instructional materials in the selected content area. The purpose of the teacher focus group is to gather information in a low-stress setting about what they find helpful and what they feel is missing in their materials to effectively serve multilingual learners. The questions are about the usefulness for all students and for multilingual learners.

Focus Group Questions

These specific questions might be asked within a broader set of questions posed to students about various aspects of the classroom.

Action Item
Question 1: How do you use your [ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies] materials to support multilingual learners?
Question 2: What specific aspects of your [ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies] materials do you find effective in serving multilingual learners?
Question 3: What do you feel is missing from your [ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies] materials to serve multilingual learners?
Question 4: What kind of support would you want when implementing newly adopted [ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies] materials?

Tips for conducting the teacher focus group

- Provide an introductory statement that helps focus the participants on what they will be discussing today. Remind teachers that their answers will be used to help guide the Adoption Committee and reviewers in establishing their priorities for reviewing materials.
- Keep the focus groups to 4 to 5 people at a time to ensure teachers' voices are heard.
- Decide whether to facilitate focus groups at priority grade levels or from specific schools.
- Include teachers in the selected content area and coaches from multiple schools in the district.