

# Teacher Interview Questions for Multilingual Learner (ML) Identification of American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) Students

The following interview questions can be used as a resource to develop a deep understanding of the relationship that the teacher and school has with the student and their family. This is by no means an exhaustive list of the questions, nor must every question be used. The family interview should be conducted by someone qualified on the ML Identification Team and in a face-to-face format whenever possible. The Teacher's responses and interview observations should be documented, stored securely and shared with the multidisciplinary team.

## Teacher-Student Relationship

- Does the student identify with a tribal nation?
- Describe what you understand about the child's cultural background?
- What educational challenges is the child experiencing?
- How would you describe the child's English language proficiency in each mode (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)? What data do you have to support your answer?
- What steps have been taken to ensure the student can demonstrate a sense of belonging in the school community?
- How does the student see themselves reflected in the curriculum and how are they able to make connections between the content and their lived experiences?
- How have you adapted instruction or activities to meet the student's needs?

## Teacher-Family Relationship

- What is your understanding of the family's Tribal identity?
- Is the family enrolled or affiliated with a Tribal nation?
- Does the family consider itself to be traditional?
- How do you typically communicate with the family?
- How is the student's family included in the child's education (e.g. class content, volunteering, field trips, etc.)?
- Who is available to help the student with educational activities at home (e.g. family member, extended family member, community member)?

## School Supports

- What evidence suggests that I have developed a strong, positive relationship with the child and their family?
- What information has been gathered about the child's cultural background, linguistic practices, and prior experiences including academic experiences?
- How is instruction personalized, valuing the child's linguistic and cultural background? In what ways does instruction connect classroom learning to the child's daily experiences?
- In what ways does instruction give sufficient attention to affect, interest, and motivation?
- How does instruction pay sufficient attention to the development of oral language?

## Notes for the Interviewer

Begin the interview by thoroughly explaining the purpose, the use, and the potential outcomes of the information gathered. Remind the teacher of the value and importance of multilingualism and multiculturalism. Provide explanations for the questions as needed. Consider interviewing multiple teachers who work with and know the student well.

