OELA
Office of English Language Acquisition

2017 Project Directors Meeting
In Pursuit of Higher Education for All

Family and Community Engagement in Dual Language Programs

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CONTEXT MATTERS

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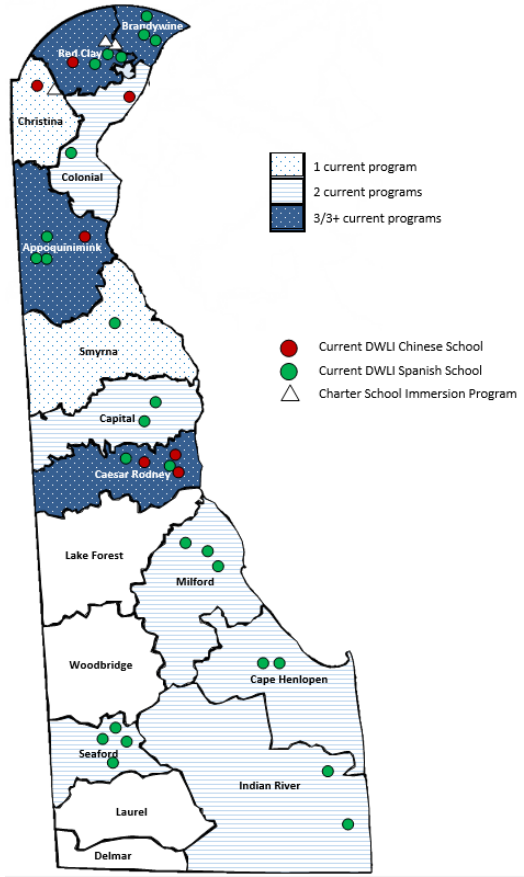
Delaware World Language Immersion

World Language Expansion Initiative: Preparing a Globally Competitive Delaware Workforce (2011)

- 10-year initiative
- 20 immersion programs
- 10,000 students

Delaware's Immersion Programs



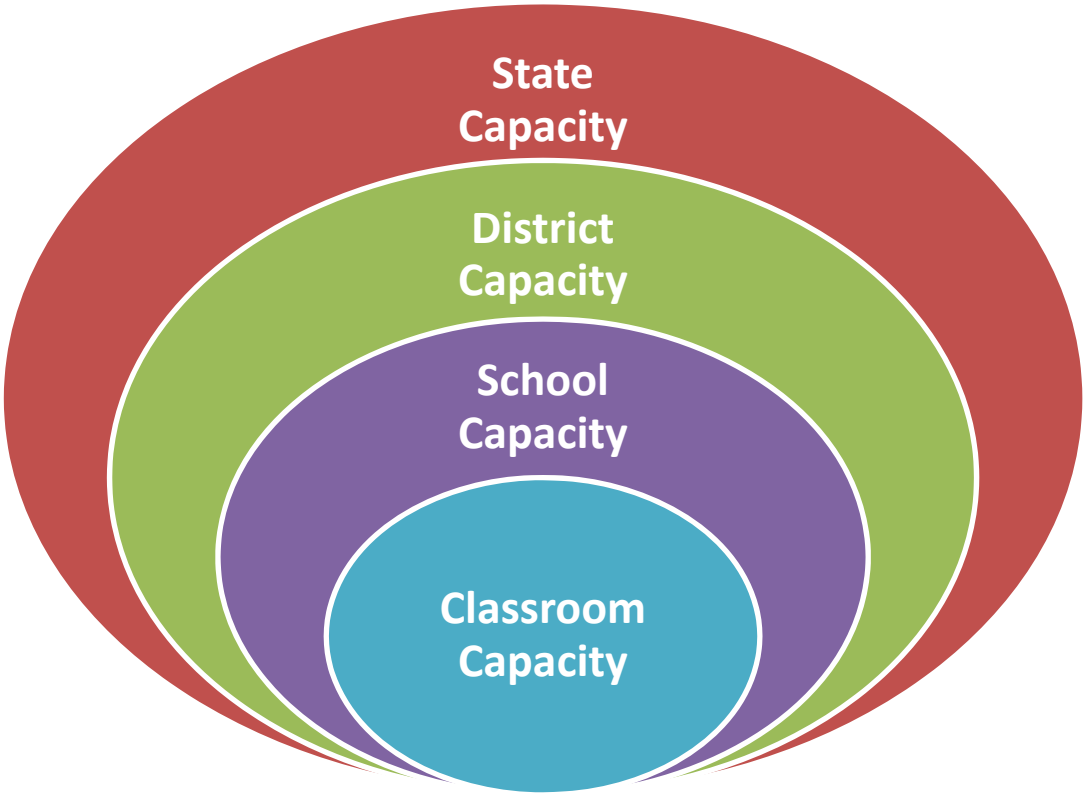
- 7 Chinese sites
- 25 Spanish sites
- 80% of districts
- Grades K-5
- 5000+ students
- 1 in 7 kindergarteners

DELAWARE WORLD LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Delaware's K-12 Immersion Path

Grades	Instructional Content in Immersion Language
Elementary (50% of the day: minimum 150 minutes)	Grade K-5 • Immersion Language Arts • Math • Science
Middle (30% of the day: minimum 90 minutes)	Grade 6-8 • Immersion Language Arts Grade 6-7 • Social Studies Grade 8 • Science
High (15% of the day: minimum 1 course per year)	Grade 9 • AP Immersion Language/Culture Grade 10-12 • Dual Credit Courses in immersion language

Delaware's Goal: Build Capacity



Community of Bilingual Learners

Identifying "Communities"

- Families of students
- Local Residents (all languages)
- Immersion Learners
- Non-Immersion Learners
- Administrators
- ***TEACHERS***

Categories of Engagement

- Language Support
- Literacy Development
- Cultural Awareness
- Newcomer Needs

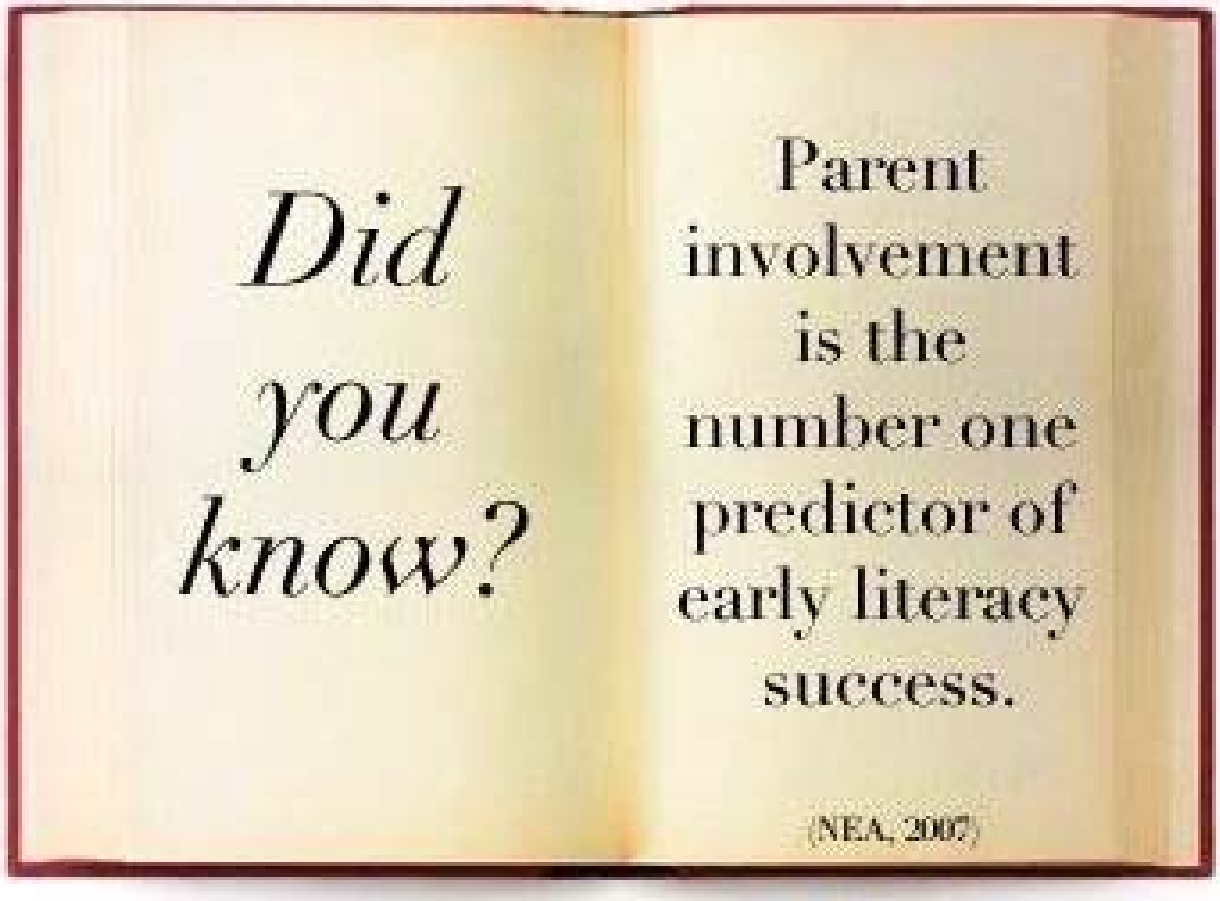
WE TEND TO LOOK THROUGH LANGUAGE AND NOT REALIZE HOW MUCH POWER LANGUAGE HAS.

QUOTEHD.COM

Deborah Tannen
American Sociologist

Language Supports

- Strategic Pairs/Strategic Partners
- Student Callers
- HS/ES Language Mentors
- The “Abuelito” Program / Foster Grandparents
- Language Lesson Exchange



edutopia.org

Literacy Development

- Storyteller Series'
- Family Literacy Nights
- Family Literacy Series'
- United Way's Reading Angels Program
- DOE EL Action Plan / Literacy Coalition Partnership

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE ARE THE FRAMEWORKS THROUGH WHICH HUMANS EXPERIENCE, COMMUNICATE, AND UNDERSTAND REALITY. (LEV VYGOTSKY, 1968)

Cultural Awareness

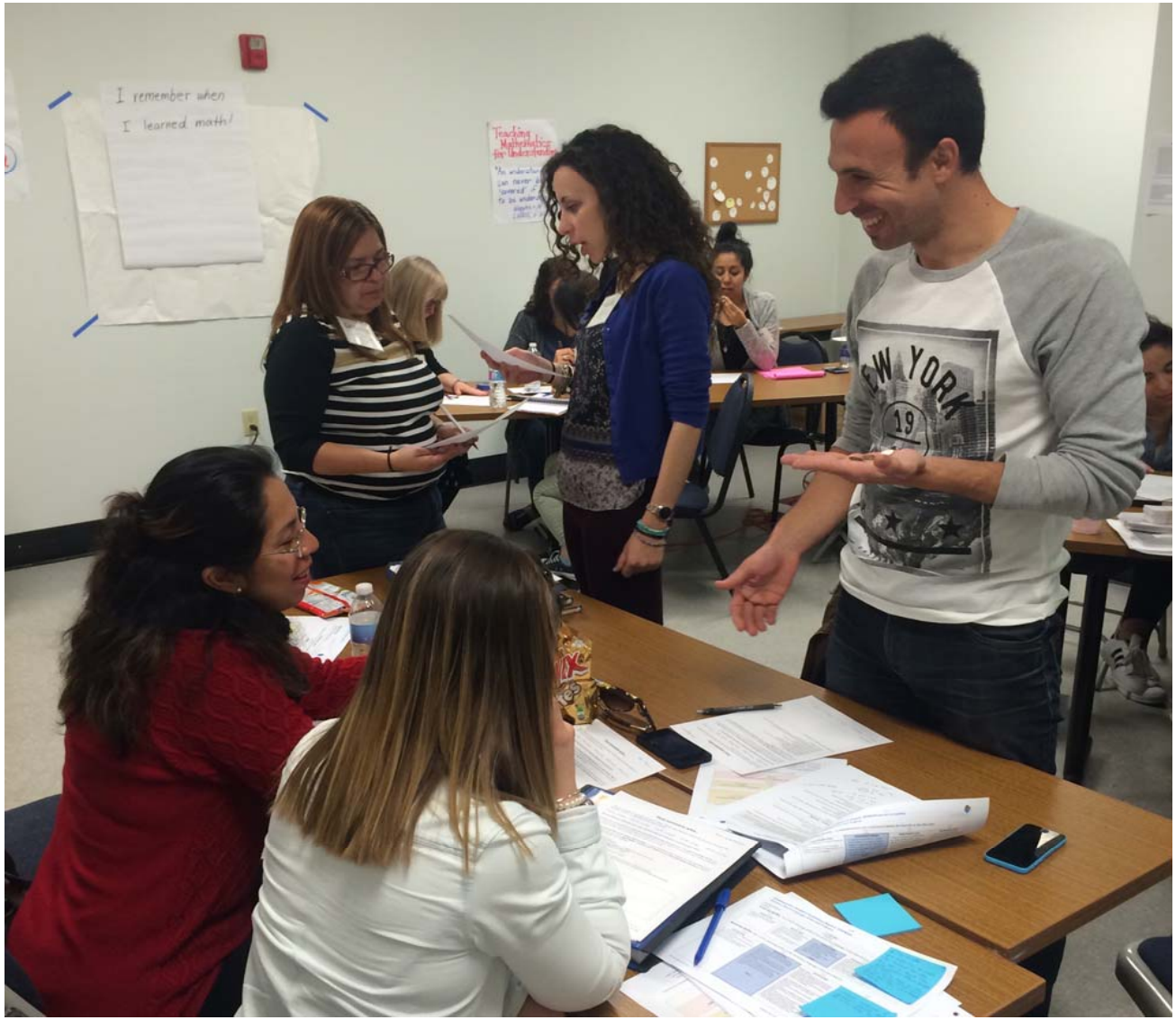
- “Mi Cultura” Teacher Presentations
- Hispanic Heritage Month Partnerships
- Latin American Community Center Programs
- Chinese New Year Outreach
- “Our Culture” Monthly Highlights

To establish supports that are appropriate and effective, it is critical for educators to acknowledge newcomers' individual strengths, the resilience they developed through the immigration process, and their rich potential for building on life experiences and prior schooling

Birman (2002)

Newcomer Needs

- Immigration and Resident Right's Programs
- La Esperanza Empowerment Sessions
- Mid-Atlantic Equity Center Interactive Webinar Series
- OELA Newcomer Toolkit



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Educator Engagement and Support

- Immersion Teacher Preparation cannot keep pace with Immersion Program Growth
- In Delaware, less than 20% of current immersion teachers have taught in immersion prior to taking their position in the state
- Immersion teachers must be both content teachers AND language teachers

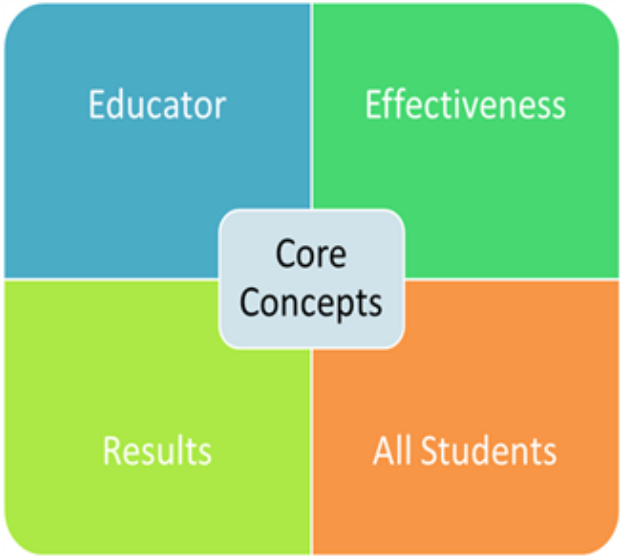
An Essential Question

How do we empower teachers without overwhelming them?

DE Professional Learning Framework

Our Professional Learning Goals

"Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students applies research on change and sustains support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change." Delaware Professional Learning Standards



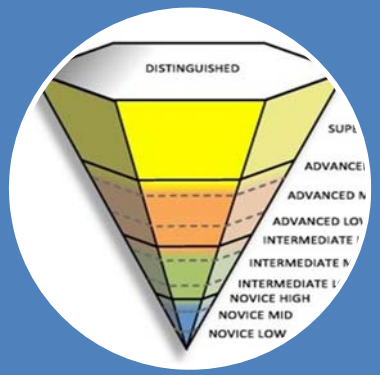
DE Professional Learning Structure

- Is ongoing, cyclical, and collaborative
- Is offered for both English and TL teachers
- Addresses both content and language topics
- Is differentiated by grade-level bands
- Includes language proficiency targets for all grades and all skill areas
- Deepens teacher understanding of language acquisition, and ACTFL and WIDA standards

Seaford School District

Two-Way Spanish Immersion in ALL elementary schools

High EL population (Spanish, Haitian-Creole)



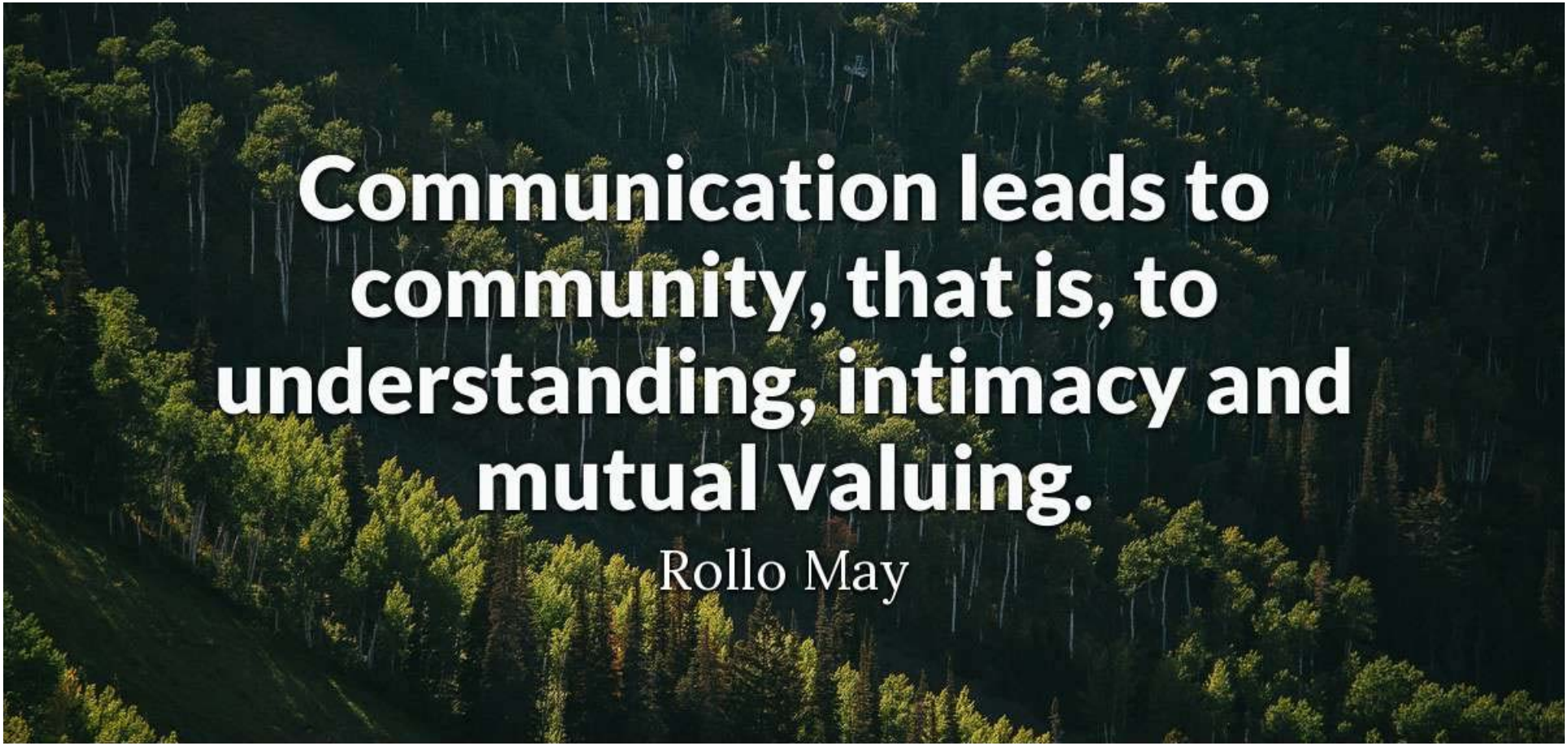
Credit for Native Language Proficiency Project

Many Haitian-Creole and Hispanic students with "Advanced-level" language

Delaware Certificate of Multiliteracy

High school students enrolling in "Biomedical Pathway" with prospects of medical translation

Students enrolling in "Teacher Preparation Pathway" with goals to teach in immersion



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