

## Introduction

The U.S. Department of Education (the Department) promotes student achievement, fosters educational excellence, and ensures that every child has the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. The Department also supports families in choosing education services that meet their child's needs. The Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) is a principal office in the Department. OELA

- provides national leadership to help English learners (ELs) attain English proficiency and achieve academic success.
- identifies major issues affecting the education of ELs and supports all reforms and initiatives considering the education needs of ELs.
- promotes opportunities for all students to gain biliteracy or multiliteracy skills.

OELA is pleased to provide this *English Learner Family Tool Kit*, with information on questions families may have about public schools in the United States. The following topics are covered in the tool kit:

1. Enrolling Your Child in School
2. Attending School in the United States
3. Obtaining Services for English Learners
4. Finding Additional Services for Your Child
5. Keeping Your Child Safe and Healthy in School
6. Helping Your Child With Schoolwork at Home

Each topic covered in the *English Learner Family Tool Kit* is divided into 5 parts: (1) *General Information*, (2) *Family and Student Rights*, (3) *Questions to Ask School Staff*, (4) *Tips*, and (5) *Resources*. All resources in the tool kit are available online, free of charge.

OELA developed this tool kit<sup>1</sup> and would like to thank all EL family members, students, and school staff who contributed information.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Clearinghouse for English Language Learners (NCELA) supported the development of the tool kit. NCELA can be accessed at <https://ncela.ed.gov/>.