



District Wish List

*for closing the achievement gap
in Sonoma County*

Aiming High is a countywide effort to accelerate the academic achievement of English language learners. As a result, more English learners will graduate from high school and post-secondary education equipped with the knowledge and skills to become contributing members of Sonoma County and its ongoing economic vitality.

The combined efforts of educators, businesses, service and community organizations, parents, and students are needed to effectively close the achievement gap. Our students are making progress, but if we are to substantially accelerate their achievement, we need your help. Together we can make a difference!

This “wish list” of support and assistance has been developed by Aiming High school districts. The requests are aligned with district improvement goals and are based on real student and program needs.

Tutoring & Mentoring

■ Ten bilingual/bicultural mentors

Provide ten adult bilingual/bicultural mentors to work with English language learners in grades 4-6 after school. The goal is to offer students opportunities to practice English and receive adult mentoring on a wide variety of topics.

Contact: Sue Field, Superintendent
Bennett Valley Union School District
(707) 542-2201 or suef@bvusd.org

■ Funding for after-school/summer classes

Fund a teacher-led tutoring program for after-school and summer classes in English Language Development for approximately 100 students.

Contact: Casey D'Angelo, Superintendent
Wright School District
(707) 542-0550 x102 or cdangelo@wrightesd.org

■ Summer Algebra Academies

Raise \$10,000 each for two Summer Algebra Academies for English learners entering ninth-grade who will be taking Algebra I in the fall. During the three-week Academies, students will learn basic algebra concepts and have hands-on opportunities to experience how algebra is applied in a work setting. Funding is needed for bus transportation, curriculum materials, and teacher salary and benefits. One Academy will be centered in Cotati-Rohnert Park and the other will be in Roseland.

Contact for Cotati-Rohnert Park:
Gail Eagan, Assistant Superintendent
Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District
(707) 792-4708 or gail_eagan@crpusd.org

Contact for Roseland: Gail Ahlas, Superintendent
Roseland School District
(707) 545-0102 or gahlas@roselandsd.org

■ After-school homework help

Volunteer for an after-school homework help program, which operates four days a week at Wilson School in Petaluma.

Contact: Eric Hoppes, Superintendent/Principal
Wilmar Union School District
(707) 765-4340 or erichoppes@earthlink.net

■ English-Spanish translation services

Provide translation services for school documents and written messages.

Contact: Eric Hoppes, Superintendent/Principal
Wilmar Union School District
(707) 765-4340 or erichoppes@earthlink.net

Parent Outreach & Engagement

■ Outreach to 190 families

Working in partnership with the district, conduct outreach to approximately 190 families of English learners in Petaluma's Waugh School District. This might include English language classes for parents, a speaker series of highly engaging Spanish-language presenters that inspire higher education goals, and/or family events (like a literacy fiesta) that bring the parents of English learners to school.

Contact: Melissa Becker, Meadow School Principal
Waugh School District
(707) 762-4905 or mbecker@waugh.k12.ca.us

■ Spanish-language radio broadcasts

Raise \$40,000 for a five-day per week English Language Development lesson and school announcement program on a local Spanish-language radio station for one year. The audience would be adults interested in acquiring English. Programs would also reinforce the importance of education and solicit parent involvement. Shows would be organized around work and school themes, such as language usage related to medical appointment scheduling, work terminology, and parent-teacher conferences.

Contact: Karen Arter, Director
Sonoma County Office of Education
(707) 524-2616 or karter@scoe.org

■ English class for district parents

Working in partnership with the district, provide an English Language Development class for parents/adults that emphasizes oral language skills. Childcare for participating families would also need to be provided.

Contact: David Miller, Superintendent
Harmony Union School District
(707) 874-1205 x11 or dmiller@harmony.k12.ca.us

Preschool

■ Kindergarten-preschool teacher pairings

Coordinate the pairing of 20 kindergarten teachers with teachers from state-funded feeder preschools so that they can visit each other's classrooms for the purpose of better understanding the expectations and curriculum of both grade levels. Facilitate the identification of teachers and schools, schedule visitations, and train teacher participants in the use of a visitation protocol developed by SCOE.

Contact: Pam Turner, School Readiness Coordinator
Sonoma County Office of Education
(707) 524-2779 or pturner@scoe.org

■ School readiness programs

Raise funding to establish three new school readiness programs for entering kindergartners. English learners who have limited preschool opportunities would be the target group for the summer programs.

Contact: Karen Arter, Director
Sonoma County Office of Education
(707) 524-2616 or karter@scoe.org

Aiming High: Working together to close the achievement gap for English learners

■ English class at a work/community site

Establish an English Language Development class for parents at a work site or community location within the boundaries of one or more Aiming High districts. Working in partnership with the district(s), establish training locations, fund teacher salaries, secure materials, and advertise classes.

Contact: Don Russell, Assistant Superintendent
Sonoma County Office of Education
(707) 524-2786 or drussell@scoe.org

■ Host locations for Summer Algebra Academy

Working with two other businesses, host the Cotati-Rohnert Park Summer Algebra Academy for 30 English learners entering ninth-grade. Collectively, three businesses would provide a three-week opportunity for students to learn about the work applications of algebra. The students would spend one week at each business learning algebra concepts presented by a credentialed teacher (8:00-9:30 A.M.), followed by hands-on experiences in the work setting for the remainder of the morning. *This request is for businesses in or near the cities of Cotati and Rohnert Park.*

Contact: Gail Eagan, Assistant Superintendent
Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District
(707) 792-4708 or gail_eagan@crpusd.org

■ 500 paperback books

Secure the purchase of 500 paperback reading literacy books for English learners to have available to read at home with their parents.

Contact: Karen Arter, Director
Sonoma County Office of Education
(707) 524-2616 or karter@scoe.org

■ Funding for science internships

Sponsor the participation of two English learners in the summer STEM program at Sonoma State University, at \$1,000 per student. STEM is a three-week program that allows highly motivated high school students to complete an intensive science project-based internship, mentored and coached by university professors. Participating students must be between their junior and senior years of high school and interested in going on to college to pursue a career in a science-related field. This sponsorship would fund stipends for the two students.

Contact: Mike Roa, Science Consultant
Sonoma County Office of Education
(707) 522-3253 or mroa@scoe.org

■ Career day for grade 4-6 students

Organize and coordinate a one-day career day in Spring 2009 for students in grades 4-6. Working in partnership with the district, recruit presenters from diverse career backgrounds and cultures, assist in the set-up and delivery of presentations, and produce a database of presenters that could be used by other districts.

Contact: Sue Field, Superintendent
Bennett Valley Union School District
(707) 542-2201 or suef@bvusd.org

■ Ten laptops with language software

Fund the purchase of ten laptops loaded with the Rosetta Stone language program for students to use at home, which would provide additional opportunities for students to learn and practice English. The computers would be loaned to English learners and their families.

Contact: Noel Buehler, Superintendent
Oak Grove Union School District
(707) 545-0171 or nbuehler@ogusd.org

■ After-school program for English learners

Provide funding to support two days per week for an after-school homework help program to benefit English learners.

Contact: Eric Hoppes, Superintendent/Principal
Wilmar Union School District
(707) 765-4340 or erichoppes@earthlink.net

■ Funding for speakers

Secure \$1,500 for speakers to present at two administrator "power breakfasts" hosted by the Sonoma County Association of School Administrators (SCASA). One session would focus on math and the other on language arts, with a strand emphasizing the instructional needs of English learners.

Contact: Casey D'Angelo, SCASA Co-President
(707) 542-0550 x102 or cdangelo@wrightsd.org

■ 100 books-on-tape, 10 tape players

Produce 100 books-on-tape in English and Spanish for elementary students to use at home with their parents and help secure funding to purchase ten tape players that could be checked out for home use.

Contact: Claudia Rosatti, Superintendent
Cloverdale Unified School District
(707) 894-1920 or rosattic@admin.cusd.org