

English Learner Parent Advisory Council Meeting

December 7, 2022

10-11 AM on Zoom

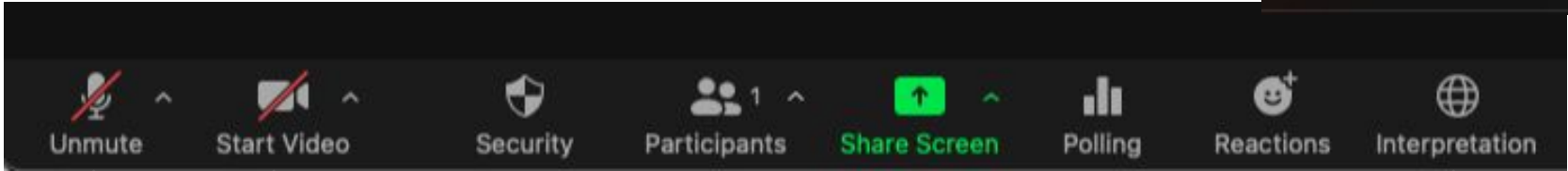
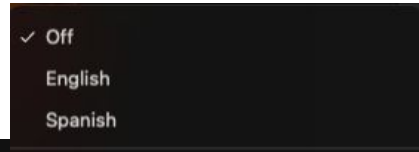
6-7:30 PM at the Boys and Girls Club



WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF
Multilingual
EDUCATION



Tips & Tricks



Control your audio and video here.

Interpretation available. Select your language here.

Introductions



ELPAC District Team

- **Carmen Melendez-Quintero**
 - Director of Multilingual Education
- **Ivonne Pérez**
 - Chief Diversity Officer
- **Erin Goldstein**
 - Assistant Director of Multilingual Education
- **Julie Taka**
 - Supervisor of Multilingual Education
- **Nelsy Pepler**
 - Multilingual Education Department Head

ELPAC Parent Planning Team

- **Vera Martinoska**
- **Linda Tilleman**



What is ELPAC?

English Learner Parent Advisory Council

For parents/guardians of:

- Current English learners
- Former English learners

To advise the district and School Committee on matters that pertain to English learners.



Read more about ELPACs:

- [DESE's ELPAC resources](#)
- [WPS' ELPAC webpage](#)

Our Meeting Goals

- Review information about multilingual learners and multilingual education programs
- Learn about the work of our community organizations
- Share perspectives on multilingual learner experiences
- Brainstorm topics for the next two meetings



Multilingual Education
in the
Worcester Public Schools

Who are our multilingual learners?



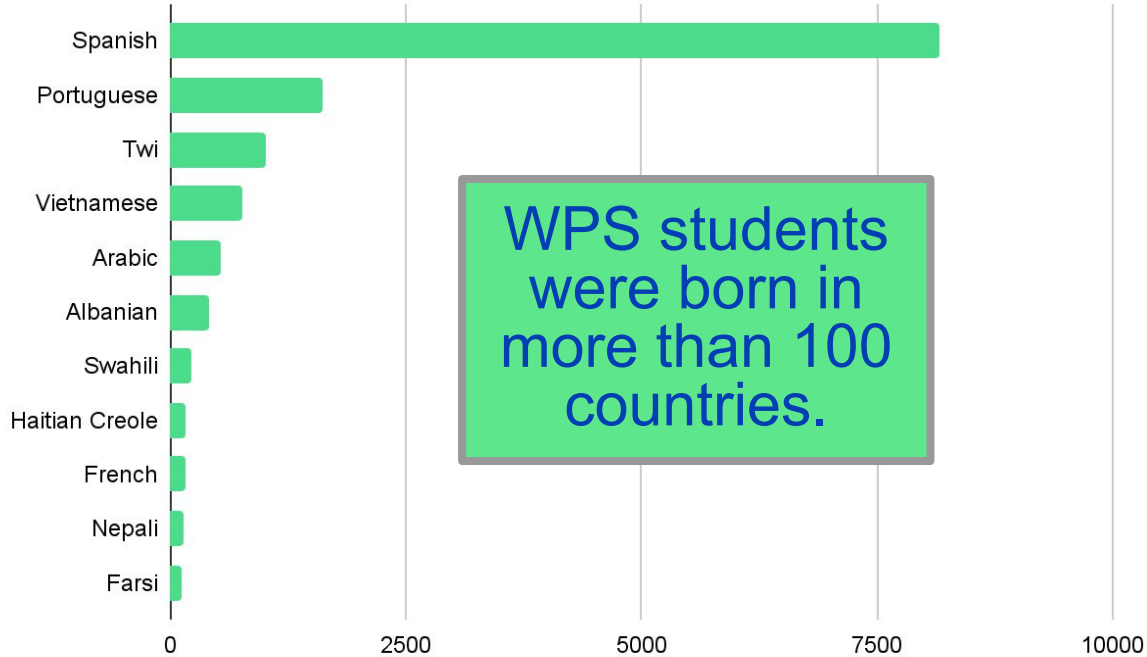
We have more than 25,000 students.

_____ students speak a language other than English at home.

8,158 students speak Spanish.

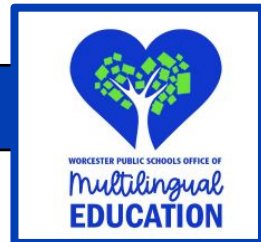
1,612 students speak Portuguese.

4,930 students speak more than 70 other languages.



*Data is current as of November 15, 2022.

The WPS Office of Multilingual Education is driven by the following:



Mission



To advance equity and excellence in the education of multilingual learners in the Worcester Public Schools.

Vision



All learners will excel academically, develop multilingualism, embrace diverse identities, and civically engage in local and global communities.

Values



- **Asset-Based Approaches:** We acknowledge and integrate the diverse linguistic and cultural practices of multilingual learners, families, and communities as essential for education.
- **Equity:** We pursue policies and practices that ensure equitable educational opportunities for multilingual learners.
- **Collaboration:** We partner with students, families, communities, and colleagues to fulfill our collective responsibility.
- **Professionalism:** We commit to high standards of excellence and professional growth to strengthen our practices and programs.

What programs does WPS offer for MLs?

Programs in English

- Sheltered English Immersion
- Sheltered English Immersion for Students with Limited and Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE)

Programs in English and Spanish

- Dual Language
- Transitional Bilingual Education

All Multilingual Education Program options include ESL instruction for ELs through an ELD class (secondary) or pull-out, push-in, or co-teaching (elementary).

World Language: The district also offers World Language classes in grades 7-12 for heritage speakers (including ELs and non-ELs) and students learning a new language. Currently, we offer Spanish, French, Latin, and American Sign Language.

For more on
MLE
programs,
check out
our
information
sheet and
DESE's ELE
webpage.

Legal Rights of Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians of ELs have the right to:

- choose a multilingual education program among those offered by the district;
- visit a multilingual education program in the district;
- attend available meetings to learn more about the multilingual education programs offered in the district;
- request a new multilingual education program in accordance with state law; and,
- withdraw their child from a multilingual education program.



Community Organizations that Serve Multilingual Learners in Worcester



YMCA of Central MA

Programs & Opportunities



Childcare Programs

Afterschool, Preschool, Child Watch, Vacation & Summer Camps

Teens: Minority Achievers, Teen Center, Leaders Club,

Membership

Family, Adult, Adult Local, Young Adult, Teens, Neighborhood (Weds & Sat only)

Health & Wellness

Classes, Person Training, Wellness Center

Aquatics

Open Swim, Swim Lessons, Private Lessons, Group Exercise Class, Life Guard Training, Guard Start

Employment Opportunities

See Website: employmentandjobsattheymcaofcm.org

Volunteer Opportunities

See Flyer:

Social Media

- Website: ymcaofcm.org
- Facebook: [31 Central Community Branch YMCA | Facebook](#)



CHILDCARE PROGRAMS

SCHOOL'S OUT PROGRAM

- Programming for children grades K-8th
- Program Hours: 1:45PM - 6PM
- Program Features Include:
 - Swimming, Games, Arts & Crafts, a Large Basketball court, dance studio, playground, cooking, STEM Activities and Sports!
- Snack Provided Daily
- Childcare Vouchers accepted and Financial Aid Available!

PROGRAM FEES:

5 Days - \$105

4 Days - \$88

3 Days - \$72

2 Days - \$52

Transportation Rate
\$9/Day

ALL DAY PROGRAM

SCHOOL VACATION AND SNOW DAYS

- Programming for children grades K-8th when school is not in session!
- Program Hours: 8 - 6pm
- Program Features Include:
 - Swimming, Games, Arts & Crafts, a Large Basketball court, dance studio, playground, cooking, STEM Activities and Sports!
- Snack Provided Daily
- Childcare Vouchers accepted and Financial Aid Available!

PROGRAM FEES:

\$46 / Day



PRESCHOOL

- Ages 2-9 years - 5 years
- (Mon-Fri) 7:30AM - 5:30PM
- Our preschool program is designed to enhance and extend your child's total development: social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and moral.
- Based on the Creative Curriculum, your child's early education focuses on developing their mind, body, and spirit through age appropriate learning opportunities.



PROGRAM FEES:

\$240 / Week

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SARAH LEVY - SLEVY@YMCAOFCM.ORG - 508.755.6101 EXT. 1229



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

#YMCAofCM



We have volunteer opportunities for everyone

Interest Areas:

**Aquatics, Youth & Family Programs, Childcare,
Wellness, Membership, Sports**

Are you looking for ways to be impactful in your community? The Central Community Branch YMCA welcomes you to get involved with us. Whatever your interest area is we have something for you.

Join us!

**For more information contact
Central Community Branch YMCA
766 Main St., Worcester, MA**

Danielle Delgado, Executive Director
ddelgado@ymcaofcm.org | 508-755-4362 x1268



THE GANDARA CENTER

INTENSIVE CARE COORDINATION

AN INTRODUCTION

ABOUT GANDARA

THE MISSION OF THE GÁNDARA CENTER IS TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF HISPANICS, AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND OTHER CULTURALLY DIVERSE POPULATIONS THROUGH INNOVATIVE, CULTURALLY COMPETENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, PREVENTION AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

FOUNDED IN 1977 TO ADVOCATE AND PROVIDE FOR EQUAL SERVICES IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY, GÁNDARA CENTER DELIVERS QUALITY BILINGUAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND PREVENTATIVE SERVICES FOR A DIVERSE CLIENTELE OF NEARLY 15,000 CHILDREN, ADULTS AND FAMILIES EACH YEAR IN 100 LOCATIONS ACROSS MASSACHUSETTS.

INTENSIVE CARE COORDINATION

- FAMILIES WITH A YOUTH WHO IS 0-21 YEARS OLD WHO HAS A SEVERE EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE (SED).
 - MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS THAT IMPAIRS THEIR FUNCTIONING AT SCHOOL, AT HOME, OR IN THE COMMUNITY
 - THEY DO NOT NEED TO HAVE A DIAGNOSIS TO BE REFERRED, BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ONE IN ORDER TO STAY OPEN.
- ICC TEAM: CARE COORDINATOR AND FAMILY PARTNER
- WE SUPPORT THE FAMILY IDENTIFY A TEAM AND CREATE A COMMON GOALS.

10 PRINCIPLES OF WRAPAROUND

1. FAMILY VOICE AND CHOICE
2. TEAM BASED
3. NATURAL SUPPORTS
4. COLLABORATION
5. COMMUNITY BASED
6. CULTURALLY COMPETENT
7. INDIVIDUALIZED
8. STRENGTH BASED
9. PERSISTENCE
10. OUTCOME BASED

CARE PLANNING TEAM MEETING

CARE COORDINATORS

- BRING THE CPT PREP DOCUMENTS FOR EVERYONE
- FACILITATE THE MEETING: THIS INCLUDES CELEBRATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, KEEPING THE MEETING ON TRACK, REVIEWING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, SUMMARIZING TOPICS DISCUSSED. ENCOURAGE EVERYONE SPEAKS AND ALL TASKS HAVE SOMEONE ASSIGNED TO THEM.
- DISCUSS AND REVIEW SAFETY PLAN

FAMILY PARTNERS

- ENCOURAGE CAREGIVER TO SHARE
- HELP ALLEVIATE CAREGIVER ANXIETY BY PROVIDING ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO CAREGIVER
- PROVIDE CLARITY AND EXPLANATION FROM A PARENT PERSPECTIVE
- VOLUNTEER FOR TASKS AND DETERMINE FP TASKS
- PARTICIPATE IN BRAINSTORMING
- CONTRIBUTE TO SAFETY PLANNING

REFERRALS

INTAKE COORDINATOR

VANESSA COLON-ICC 413-846-0445, X 6095

ICCWORCESTERREFERRALS IHTWORCESTERREFERRALS@GANDARACENTER.ORG

WORCESTER SITE DIRECTOR

REBECCA BARTLE

508-509-1486

RBARTLE@GANDARACENTER.ORG



ACE African Community Education

embracing culture | building community | creating change



ACE's Mission & Vision

The **mission** of ACE is to assist African refugee and immigrant youth and families in achieving educational and social stability through access to academic support, leadership development, cultural expression, and community outreach in Worcester, MA.



The **vision** of ACE is a community where African refugee and immigrant youth and families are empowered, self-sufficient, and secure.

After School Program

- Homework, Enrichment Activities
- 20-30 attend
- All Saints Church
- Specials: Swimming lessons at YMCA, art show at ArtsWorcester, Holiday parties
- Coordinator: Sly Dwyer



Saturday Program

- Academic classes: ELL, STEM
- Enrichment classes: Express Yourself, Drumming, Dance, Gym, Computers
- 50 attended
- Claremont Academy
- Specials: Africa Day, Stomp Rockets, Roger Williams Zoo field trip, Touch Tomorrow field trip
- Coordinator: John Yormie, Jr.



Family Education Program

- ESOL , Citizenship classes
- Literacy Playgroup
- 30 students
- Claremont Academy
- Specials: Workshops: Financial Literacy, Community Safety, Choosing New WPS Superintendent
- Coordinator: Timon Dhego



**Coming in 2023: ACE's new home
51 Gage Street**



Follow us on social media @aceworchester

More Information: africancommunityeducation.org



WHO IS CENTRO?

- CENTRO formerly known as CENTRO Las Americas offers the highest quality of social services for the community today.
 - We have been operating since 1977
 - We have provided superior service to our community
 - We are committed to excellence
 - We are the largest multicultural minority led community service organization in Central Massachusetts

CENTRO's primary purpose is to assist individuals and families striving to reach self-sufficiency while promoting social responsibility, fostering cultural identity, and encouraging families to be significant contributors to the community as a whole.

Family Support Centers

- Centro has a Family Support Center, fully funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
 - Worcester
- This program serves children and adults with developmental disabilities.
- The goal of this program is to help improve the family's quality of life.
- Closed referral with the Department of Disability.

Services offered through FSC:

- Information and Referrals to all resources available at CENTRO & in the local community.
- Case management services.
- Service Navigation to ensure access to all resources available.
- Monthly calendar with activities for recreation, education, information and special events for DDS families.
- Transitional services – helping coordinate between schools, employment, and other agencies involved.
- Respite Program – Giving parents some time to themselves for necessary errands.
- Flexible Funding – Additional funds provided to the family, upon DDS approval, for specifically identified needs.

Intensive Family Stabilization

Providing culturally sensitive intensive intervention, through clinical and case-management services utilizing a team-approach

- These cases are typically short-term in nature, and given the significant level of challenges faced by the families involved, they are intensive.
- The approach requires a clinical assessment of needs and strategies identified by DCF, the family, and the clinical staff.
- Clinical intervention by a Masters-Level Clinician.
- Case Management by a BA/BS-level or equivalent caseworker.
- Family stabilization gained through community service connection, parent skill-building, Parent/child medication, and life skills training.
- Each staff member visits the family weekly.
- This is a Closed Referral program with DCF.

Community Support Services

Geared towards assisting low-income residents seeking assistance as they strive to become self-sufficient.

The services provided include:

- Case management services
- Translations and notary services
- Completing the citizenship process
- Permanent resident renewal
- Deferred action
- EBT and WIC applications
- Open child support cases
- SNAP Applications
- MassHealth Applications

Emergency Food Pantry Services:

- Providing residents with emergency food provisions.
- CENTRO operates the second largest food pantry in Worcester.
- CENTRO's food pantry works in collaboration with the Worcester Country Food Bank as well as other area food pantries.
- The food pantry does not require any form of ID.
- The zip codes serviced at this time are 01605, 01608, 01609, 01610.

Health Programs

Adult Foster Care (AFC)



Shared Living

Intensive Foster Care



Group Adult Foster Care (GAFC)

Adult Foster Care

Providing assistance to adults, 16 years and older, who because of illness, weakness, disability, or advanced age, cannot live safely at home alone.

- Allows the person served to stay in their home while receiving care.
- Provides assistance with activities of daily living: personal care, housekeeping, laundry, grocery shopping, meal preparation, medication cueing, transportation coordination and comprehensive case management.
- Person served requires 24 hour daily monitoring.
- Caregiver lives in home with the person receiving care.
- Caregiver is usually a family member or close friend.
- Service is provided to members of MassHealth at NO COST TO THE PERSON SERVED.
- Caregiver receives a stipend from MassHealth, amount dependent on level of care.

Group Adult Foster Care

- Similar to the AFC program, however the person's served need for care is not daily.
- Caregiver does not live in clients home.
- Caregiver is an employee of CENTRO, either a Certified Nurse Assistant (CAN) or a Home Health Aid (HHA).
- The person served for GAFC must be 22 years of age or older, and insured by MassHealth.
- The Person Served must reside in subsidized housing or an apartment building with at least 6 units.

Both AFC & GAFC programs require a doctors order





Institute of Latino Arts & Culture

Funded primarily with event sponsorship dollars and small grants, the Institute of Latino Arts & Culture (ILAC) is responsible for sharing our heritage, art, and culture with the general community. The Institute coordinates and implements several culturally-rich events throughout the year.



These include the followings:

- Latin-American Festival
- Hispanic Heritage Breakfast
- Art Gallery Exhibitions



The Latin-American Festival is held on the 3rd Saturday in August on the Worcester Common, behind Worcester City Hall.



SouthEast Asian Coalition

484 Main St. Suite 400 Worcester, MA 01608

Mission Statement

To help Southeast Asians in Central Massachusetts thrive and become advocates and contributing citizens to the greater community while preserving their unique cultural heritage.

Service & Programs

Gateway to help support many Southeast asian immigrants & refugees

Service

- Education
 - ESL
 - Citizenship
- Healthcare
- Careers
- Entrepreneurship
- Tax
- Voting

Program

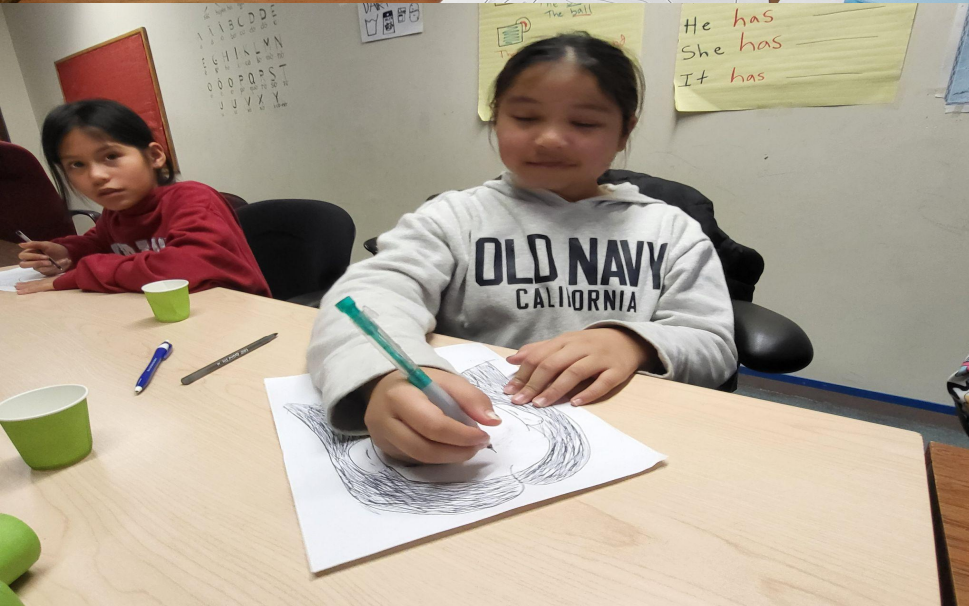
- Early Childhood
- Children Program
- One Circle 10-14 Middle School Students
- Girls Program 15+
- Women Program
- Boxing
- Volleyball
- Lion Dance

One Circle

Program that engages middle school girls age 10-14 to explore cultural identity, stress reduction and wellness to empower girls and their family to address issues associated with

- Coming of the Adolescence Age
- Puberty
- Self-esteem
- Stress Reduction
- Mental Health Wellbeing

Please Contact Thea Ray for more info: Thea@seacma.org





Contact

- SouthEast Asian Coalition Website
 - <http://www.seacma.org/>
- Hai Nguyen
 - Program Manager/Community Engagement Director/Eternals Lion Dance Director
 - Email: hainguyen@seacma.org
- Thea Ray
 - Girls Program Manager/Woman Program Manager
 - Email: Thea@seacma.org

Cultural Exchange Through Soccer (CETS)



CETS uses the game of soccer to engage youth in programming that offers opportunities for youth development and leadership.

Programs

Weekly Soccer Programs

- Skill Builders (ages 6-12)
- Youth Squad (ages 13-18)
- Women's Group (women, girls and allies any age)

Mentoring/Direct Leadership Support

- Youth Leaders
- Alumni Mentor Network Program
- Fields Coalition

Events

- EPIC U-19 Invitational Tournament
- Worcester World Cup
- Youth Summer League



Weekly Soccer Programming



Weekly soccer programs are

- All year long
- Free
- Safe space
- Led by CETS staff, youth leaders & youth volunteers



Mentoring & Direct Leadership Support



- Be a mentee or mentor
- Volunteer
- Organize events
- Sit on CETS steering committee
- Learn grant writing
- Help develop programs
- Public speaking
- College scholarship support

Events



Team Building Trips

CETS provides team building opportunities that help further our mission of youth development and leadership.

- College tours to Harvard and UMASS
 - Hiking Mt. Monadnock
- NE Revolution professional soccer game
 - Rock Climbing
 - Ropes courses



CETS INDOOR PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 2022 - MAY 2023

Youth Programs - Saturdays

@ Goddard Elementary School
14 Richards St.

Skill Builders

Ages 6-12
10:00am-11:15am

Youth Squad

Ages 13-18
11:15am-12:30pm

Women's Group - Wednesdays

@ Trinity Lutheran Church
73 Lancaster St.

*Women's Group is girl & women-centered,
and welcomes allies*

6:30pm-8:00pm

CETS empowers youth from diverse communities to play, share
and teach soccer and to become leaders to improve Worcester

registration is required to participate

**Cultural
Exchange
Through
Soccer**

For more information contact Cassie at
413-212-4498 or cgiardina@cetsworcester.org

Family Perspectives

Feedback from You



1. What experiences have your children had in community or school-based programs?
2. What other programs or resources would be helpful to you and your family?
3. What other topics would you like to explore in this year's ELPAC?

Feedback from You



Share your perspectives with the superintendent [here](#).
The survey closes today.

Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools, Dr. Rachel Monárrez, invites you to share your thoughts and ratings to three questions she has been asking members of our Worcester school community. Let your voice be heard as we begin to plan for our next strategic plan! Use the link below to share your thoughts and to rate the thoughts of others. Your ratings of thoughts from the broader Worcester school community are important so please try to rate at least 20. We value your time and appreciate you spending it on helping shape the work of Worcester Public Schools for the next five year.

This survey will be open Tuesday, November 22 – Wednesday, December 7.

Question 1: What are the strengths of the Worcester Public Schools?

You can join the conversation by going to this link: <https://tejoin.com/scroll/927856139>

Question 2: What are opportunities for improvement?

You can join the conversation by going to this link: <https://tejoin.com/scroll/456411365>

Question 3: What would you do if you were Superintendent?

You can join the conversation by going to this link: <https://tejoin.com/scroll/844312623>



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Thank you to our community partners who participated in our meetings today!!



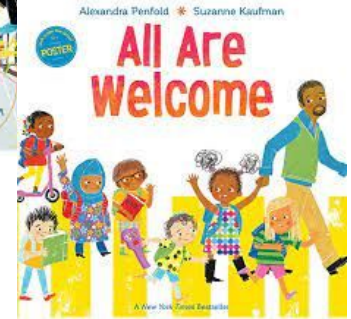
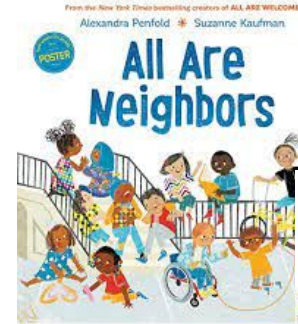
WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
LATINO EDUCATION INSTITUTE



Thank you to Garden Fresh!



Thank you to Monano for our children's activities tonight!!



Thank you to our hosts!!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF WORCESTER



Contact Information



**For questions about ELPAC or to
join the parent planning team:**

Nelsy Pepler

peplern@worcesterschools.net

774-530-1499



Reach us at:

Carmen Melendez-Quintero

melendezquinteroc@worcesterschools.net

Ivonne Pérez

pereziv@worcesterschools.net

Erin Goldstein

goldsteine@worcesterschools.net

Julie Taka

takaj@worcesterschools.net

Thank you for your joining
us tonight. We look
forward to seeing you at
our next ELPAC meeting on
March 1, 2023.

-The MLE Team



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