

WELLMAN-UNION CISD

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER | FALL 2026

Every student, every day, it's who we are. We are Wildcats.

Dear Wildcat Parents and Families,

Welcome to our Fall 2026 Parent and Family Newsletter. We are sharing information and resources from the Texas Emergent Bilingual Support (TXEL) newsletter that may be helpful to our Wellman-Union families. This issue includes ways to support learning at home, stay connected with school, understand language services, and prepare students for future opportunities.

IN THIS ISSUE

PASS reading support • LPAC parent involvement • TELPAS updates • parental rights and attendance • bilingualism • family connection ideas • at-home learning • college and career resources

Important Information for Families

Parent Access to Supplemental Supports (PASS)

Texas families can apply for the PASS program. This \$400 online grant helps eligible students strengthen reading skills through approved literacy tutoring. **Eligibility:** the student is enrolled in a Texas public school and scored "did not meet grade level" in reading on the 3rd-grade state assessment.

Parent & Family Engagement Conference

November 10-12, 2026 | San Antonio, Texas

Parent Day is November 10 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Registration is \$50 per person through October 18 and \$75 afterward. Childcare is not provided. More information: pfetexas.net/gcacon.

Beginning-of-the-Year Program Information

Keep your contact information and preferred language current with the school. Families are encouraged to ask how their child receives language support during the school day, what can be done at home to support language development, and what additional services may be available.

Get Involved at Wellman-Union

Become an LPAC Parent Member

The Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) includes school staff and a parent or guardian of an emergent bilingual student. Parent members receive training and participate in decisions related to students' language needs, progress, placement, and services. **If you are interested in serving as an LPAC parent member, contact Wellman-Union CISD.**

TELPAS Changes Are Coming

TELPAS measures annual English-language growth in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. During the 2026-27 and 2027-28 transition period, TELPAS will continue using the proficiency levels Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Advanced High; keep the same design; and include questions covering areas that overlap between the old and new ELPS.

Supporting Language & Learning at Home

Benefits of Bilingualism

Families are encouraged to continue speaking, reading, and maintaining their home language while children learn English. Using both languages supports continued language development and gives children meaningful opportunities to communicate and learn.

Advice or a Listening Ear?

When your child shares a problem, try asking, **"Do you want advice, or do you want me to listen?"** Allow children to talk about feelings in the language that feels most comfortable. Focus on what they are communicating rather than correcting how they say it.

Family Music Playlist

Build a family playlist using songs in English and your home language. Talk about why family members chose particular songs and how the music connects to feelings, memories, traditions, or heritage.

Easy At-Home Learning Ideas

Your Child Guides Your Drive

Let your child follow a map and give directions during a family drive in English, the home language, or both. This provides practice with maps, communication, and problem solving. An adult should remain focused on driving.

Argue Your Case

When your child asks for something, have them organize reasons and make a case for why you should say yes. They can use facts or examples and present their thinking in English, the home language, or both. This builds writing, speaking, and reasoning skills.

Know Your Resources

Parental Rights

Families of emergent bilingual students have rights related to receiving important school information in a language they understand, accessing programs and services, and participating in decisions about bilingual or ESL programming.

School Attendance

Regular attendance helps students remain engaged in learning. Families should know the school's attendance expectations and procedures for absences, tardies, doctor's notes, and other attendance concerns.

College & Career Corner

Post-Secondary Readiness

TXEL student resources include information about college applications, trade schools and careers, resumes, financial aid, scholarships and grants, and preparation activities beginning in 9th grade.

ApplyTexas

ApplyTexas allows students to explore programs and apply to Texas public universities and community colleges, along with many private institutions.

Texas Free College Application Week

October 12-18, 2026: Texas residents who submit an undergraduate application through ApplyTexas during this week will not have to pay an application fee. This includes first-time college students and transfer students.

Wildcat Family Connection

Every student, every day, it's who we are. We are Wildcats.

A strong connection between home and school helps students feel supported and ready to learn. Stay connected with teachers, ask questions, attend school activities, read and talk together at home, and let us know how we can support your family.

Additional resources: www.txel.org | www.tea.texas.gov
EmergentBilingualSupport@tea.texas.gov