

*What should we know about  
the culture of ELLs in order  
to improve their academic  
achievement in Math*

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*What should we know about the culture of ELLs in order to improve their academic achievement in Math*

- o ELLs might have either a deeper/more advanced knowledge of the math concepts at hand or a different approach to use/apply them. ELLs need help to “translate” that knowledge and make sense of the explanations given in English.
  - o *Investigate the math level achieved at their home-countries.*
  - o *Find out the approach they used e.g. division, subtraction, and the use of punctuation e.g. commas and periods, place to put dollar sign \$ etc.*
  - o *Check their familiarity with the American metric/money system.*

*What should we know about the culture of ELLs in order to improve their academic achievement in Math*

- o ELLs bring a general cultural/knowledge background to the classroom which they must use in order to attach meaning to any new knowledge they have to acquire.
  - o *Vocabulary using realia and demonstration.*
  - o *Relate math problems and vocabulary to prior knowledge and background.*
  - o *Apply problems to daily life situations. Have students write original word problems.*
  - o *Use manipulatives to make problems concrete.*

*What should we know about the culture of ELLs in order to improve their academic achievement in Math*

- ELLs Parents' cultural/math background.
  - Might be behind their children in math/English knowledge.
  - Lack of appreciation for homework.
  - Not supposed to interfere/intervene with their kids' schooling.
- *Do not assume ELLs will get help at home. Encourage peer tutoring at the school.*
- *Visit the ELLs parents and explain the importance of both homework and their engagement with the school.*