

# ILA Interpretation/Translation Devices

## Poudre School District

### Fort Collins, CO



All schools within Poudre School District (PSD) have access to a Spanish speaking or Arabic speaking Family Liaison; however, some are not always on site. To help solve this, PSD learned of translation devices called ILA that could sit at the front office of each school and could further interpret or translate into many additional languages.



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The IT department, Integrated Services department, and Language, Culture & Equity (LCE) department helped the district learn about the devices and how they could be useful to PSD families. The district utilized Covid-19 funds to purchase an ILA device for each school and additional devices for the Integrated Services and LCE department. Each school received contact information for support and training. The devices allowed families to communicate with staff regardless of what language they spoke and did not require waiting for a liaison to arrive. Unintentionally, the ILA devices were also able to be used with newcomer students. It was helpful to communicate with students during the first few weeks of school who did not understand or could not communicate in English and greatly reduced their anxiety.

The schools and liaisons have reported overwhelmingly positive impacts. Other districts have also purchased the devices and are having similar outcomes. However, one challenge is that not all the languages have the text to speech option and are limited to only text, so if a family is not literate, they will not be able to utilize the device. The ILA company is constantly updating the software, so hopefully that will not be an issue in the future.

Advice for districts hoping to utilize the ILA devices would be to make sure each school has the device powered on and plugged in every day. Some schools waited until a family needed the device to try and turn it on. The software frequently updates to add additional languages, and it can sometimes take 30 minutes to update before it can be used. Districts should also order extra devices if one breaks or schools want to borrow one to two for newcomer students.