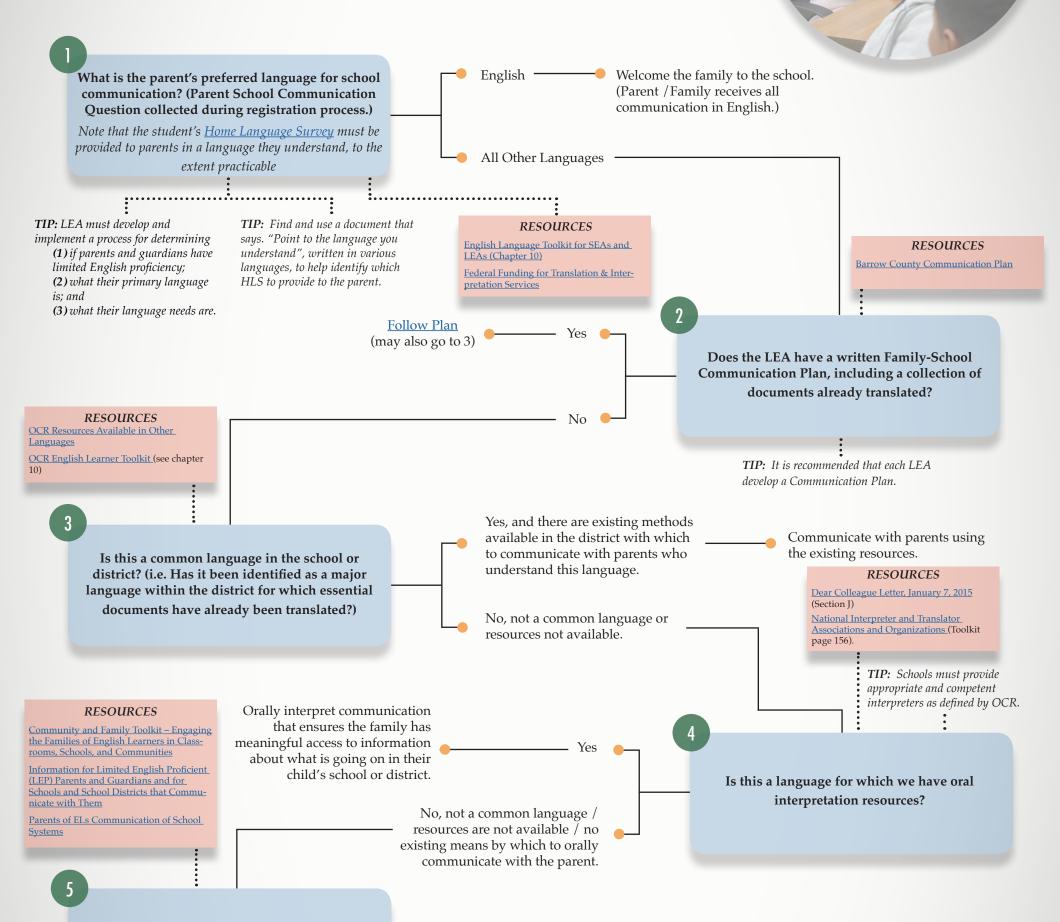
Communication with Parents in Languages Other Than English

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Sec. 1112(e)(4) states that local education agencies (LEAs) must provide information to parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parent can understand.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the federal agency responsible for ensuring compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. <u>OCR regulations</u> regarding communication with parents cross several federal and state programs within the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). As such the Department has compiled the following flow chart, with linked resources, for LEA guidance when determining how and when to communicate with parents in languages other than English.



Should we provide communication to the parent in a language and format they can understand?

Yes, schools must communicate information to limited English proficient parents in a language they can understand about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of parents who are proficient in English. No, review OCR regulations and other resources prior to determining when/if communication with non-English speaking parents in a language and format they can understand is not necessary.

The LEA communicates with the parents to the extent practicable.

Rule of thumb – if parent must sign it, ensure parent can understand it.

Additional Resources Related to Specific Programs

- Title I, Part A, Section 1116 (Parent and Family Engagement)
 - Parents of English Learners
- Title I Part C, Education of Migratory Children
 - MEP Non-Regulatory Guidance
- Title III, Part A Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
 - Federal Funding for Translation & Interpretation Services
- OCR
 - Internal OCR "What to Look Fors"
 - ESOL
 - <u>Statewide Contract for Interpretation Services</u>
 - Ensuring EL Students Can Participate Meaningfully and Equally in Educational Programs
 - <u>Requirements for Districts Serving ELs</u>
 - ESOL Form Bank
- IDEA / Special Education
 - Parent's Rights
- For Funding Questions see Federal Funding for Translation and Interpretation Services