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Issues Facing American Education  
 The education system in America is changing from year to year in hopes to achieve greater success. Teachers change their curriculum based off assessment, the needs of the students, and other important factors. The school systems are constantly trying to figure out what could be done better to make education more successful than it already is. As our country is becoming more populated, the diversity is also greatly increasing. Diversity is apparent in more states than others, but this leads to one great issue in the education system which is the growth of English language learners, and the language barriers that carry along.

English language learners are increasing in the school systems, and it can be a scary thing for the teacher, the student, and the family. Language barriers are one of many drawbacks not only in the education system, but the overall lifestyle including jobs and other ways of daily communication. We do not realize how difficult it is to communicate with others without common language. Though teachers in the schools may not know every language in the book, it is important to understand what languages are spoken in the population area, and try to gain staff that speaks these foreign languages. Off personal experience, I come from a very diverse area in California, and language barriers are definitely an issue. There are children that not only speak Spanish, but there are students who speak Chinese, Japanese, Hindu, French, Italian, and so much more. Diversity itself is a wonderful thing, but at the same time it would be difficult for a teacher that may only speak English to communicate with a student who only knows Chinese. That is where the school administration needs to be aware of the different cultures in the area, and try to hire staff accordingly to meet those students’ needs. It is also important to express the variety of culture in this world so not one culture is being neglected.

The growth of English language learners in the education system seems like it will always be an ongoing battle, but there are ways to tackle the situation. It is important to know the general area and population, what ethnicities and cultures reside in the area, and accommodate to those needs. It is important to find people who can teach both languages while communicating with families at home because they are more than likely to be speaking the native languages at home.

Along with English Language Learners, overall parent involvement is a great issue. Parents are not as involved as they should be in their child’s academic journey, and it is something that both the school and families have to work together on. The full service video is centered on Liberty Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska, and their school heavily focuses on parent communication and involvement. This is a great way to keep families accountable for their part in their child’s academic success. Parent involvement is a huge factor to a child’s education, and it should not be neglected at any age. There are many simple ways to involve parents which include the notebook example explained in the full service video. Each student had the responsibility to take home their notebooks for their parents to look over and sign it off at the end of each day. Other ways of involving parents and families is to encourage them to be actively involved in the classroom. One way can be having a secret reader, in which the parent is able to come in on a specific day and read a book to the children. Another simple idea can be a suggestion box for the parents to give their thoughts and feedback, or leave questions for the teacher. This is a great thing to do because families feel that they have a say in what happens in the classroom environment, and helps them become more involved.

Though only a few ideas are listed, there are many ways to get the parents involved such as school events, parent teacher conferences, or even sending emails back and forth daily or weekly. It is the job of teachers and school faculty to reach out to parents because when they get reached out to, they are more likely to buy into the child’s education and want to do something to help.

Overall, both issues stated above could always be an ongoing battle, but it can also be improved and worked on day by day and year to year. It is through the work of both the school faculty and the family. If both can work together hand in hand, education systems will be able to work smoother and prepare children for success.