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## A Message to Parents, Guardians, and Families about the Story of Me Summer Learning Challenge

Our language, culture, and community help us develop our understanding about the world and about ourselves. They help us make sense of the world and are building blocks that contribute to our identity. Being bilingual and bicultural is like having a superpower, and our languages, cultures and communities deserve to be celebrated! It's never too early to learn about our own language, culture and community and those of other people. This summer, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has created this challenge to help students learn more about themselves and those around them.

The Story of Me Challenge includes a range of activities for students of any age to investigate their language, culture and community. To complete the challenge, a student should choose at least one activity from **each column**, so he/she will complete at least one activity in the 'Language' column, one activity in the 'Culture' column and one activity in the 'Community' column. **Then the student will choose a poster project, artistic representation, or a poem, story or essay to tell about the activities that they did.** This is meant to be a fun, rich learning experience for children and an opportunity for students to learn more about themselves, their families, and their community. Thank you for supporting your child as he/she explores his/her superpower!

### Tips for parents, guardians, and families:

- Encourage your child to participate in The Story of Me Challenge.
- Help your child learn about his/her culture, his/her native or heritage language and about his/her community.
- Remind your child what an asset it is to be bilingual or multilingual. If your child only speaks one language, encourage him/her to study another one!
- Help your child learn about his/her culture, language, and community by assisting with The Story of Me Challenge.

*Thank you for supporting this fun and rewarding summer learning challenge!*