



Information for School Principals

The Story of Me: My Language, Culture, and Community Challenge

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) strongly encourages your school's participation in **The Story of Me: My Language, Culture, and Community Challenge**. This challenge supports and values bilingual and bicultural individuals, and celebrates diversity through its activities. It will support and enhance students' understandings about themselves, their families and their communities and will help students understand how integral language and culture is to our individual identities and to the rich diversity of our communities. To acknowledge the strength and power of language, culture, and community, students will select one or more activities from each **column** of the choice board. While the challenge is intended to celebrate bilingualism and biculturalism, it has been designed so that any students that wish to participate can do so. It may be helpful for students to choose one of the essential questions to focus on and to then select activities based on that question. After completing the choice board activities, each student will choose one culminating activity through which to demonstrate his/her understanding. The intentions of the choice board are two-fold: First, the different activities are meant to be applicable for students of different ages that want to participate and second, the choices allow for students to select tasks of that utilize a range of mediums, content areas and skills, so that they have different ways to demonstrate their learning. The culminating activities are intended to bring together their exploration and learning about language, culture and community.

In order to make this challenge meaningful, we ask that you consider the following:

- Schedule a virtual planning meeting with teachers, selected PTA members, and representatives from your youth organizations to discuss your school's participation in the challenge.
- Prepare a letter about the importance of language, culture, and community for students and families and encourage them to participate.
- If applicable, consider appointing staff such as the ESL/bilingual and world language teachers or administrators to oversee the challenge.
- Distribute with your letter, The Story of Me Choice Board, and the information sheet, *A Message to Parents, Guardians, and Families about The Story of Me Summer Learning Challenge*.
- Send questions to Megan Alubicki Flick, Multilingual Learner Consultant, at megan.alubicki@ct.gov.

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