Mesoamerican Language of Origin Codes
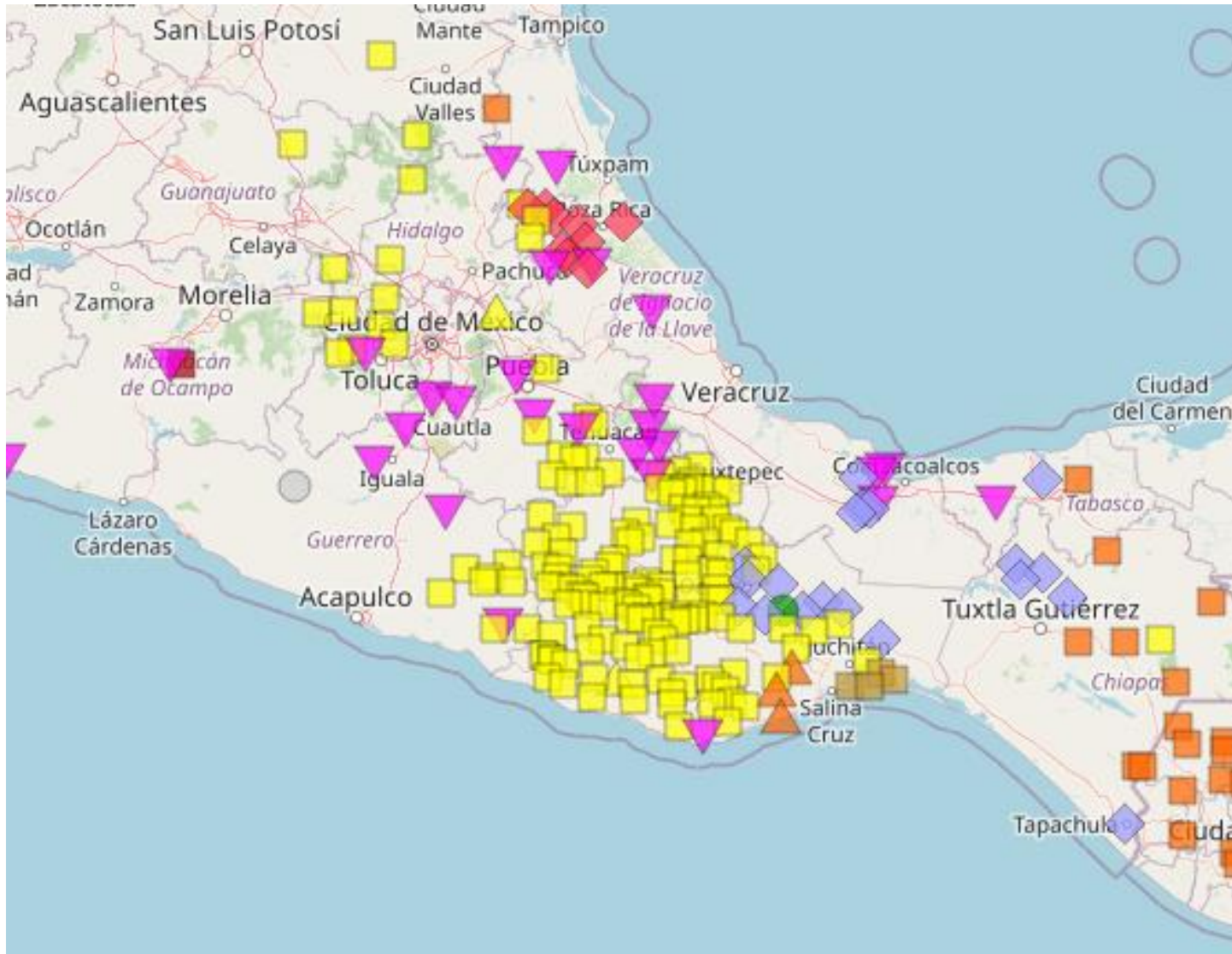## *–a pilot project*

PRESENTATION TO THE LATINO/A/X STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

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Background

Oregon's agricultural and forestry industries are powered by speakers of **endangered Indigenous Mesoamerican** languages

Their rich diversity is obscured by the four broad labels from the ISO-629-2 used to date

- ◦ North American Indian languages.
- ◦ Mayan languages.
- ◦ Central American Indian languages.
- ◦ South American Indian languages.

Each label lumps hundreds of distinct and even unrelated languages

Mesoamerica

From northern regions of Central America through the central regions of what is now Mexico.

Shared cultural and linguistic traits, and tremendous diversity.

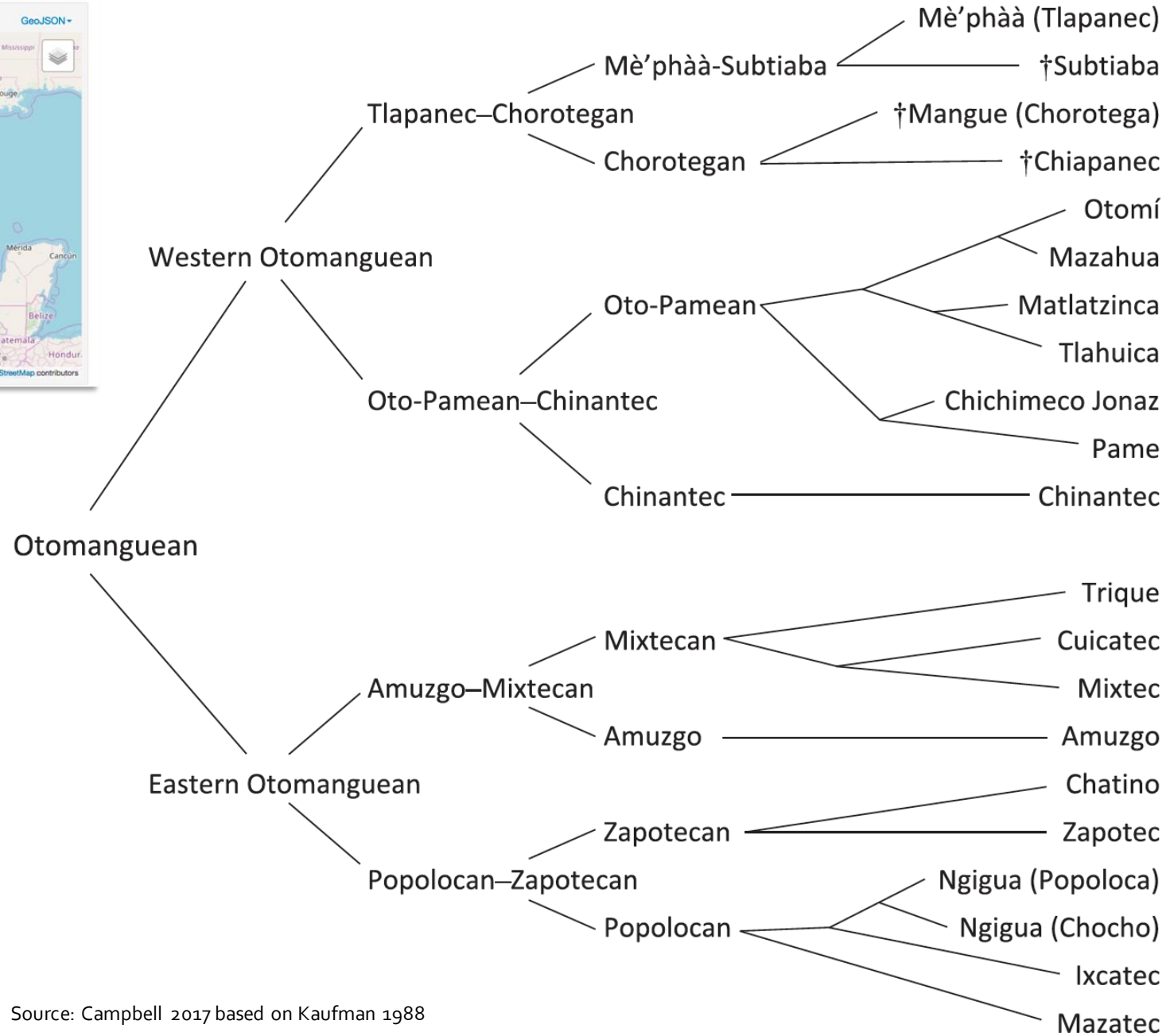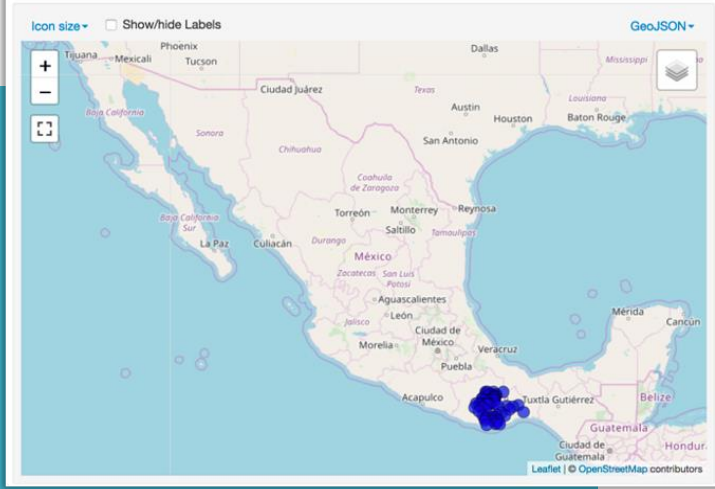There are a few hundred distinct languages –the precise number is unknown!

Mesoamerican history

- Although Mesoamerica is part of what is commonly referred to as Latin America, Mesoamerican languages are **NOT** related to Spanish.

- Contemporary Mesoamerican languages can be traced back to as late as 600 BCE and as early as 1200 BCE.

- They predate **by many hundreds of years** Spanish and any other European languages brought to the American continent by settlers during colonization after the 15th century.
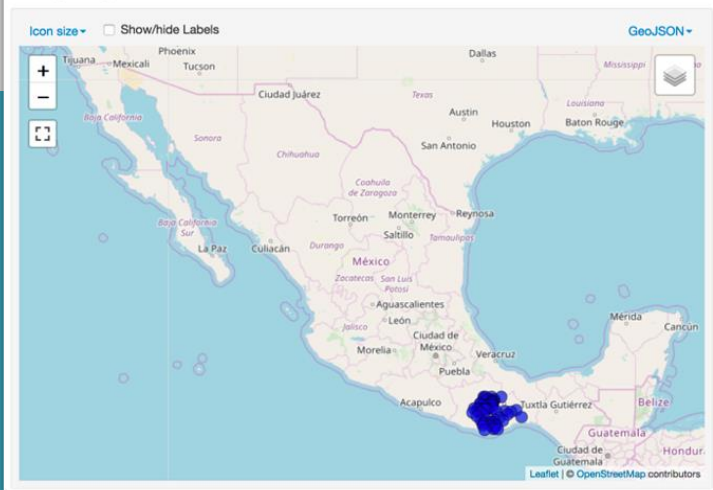
Language Families

Otomanguean

Tlapanec–Chorotegan
- Mè'phàà-Subtiaba
  - Mè'phàà (Tlapanec)
  - †Subtiaba
- Chorotegan
  - †Mangue (Chorotega)
  - †Chiapanec

Western Otomanguean

Oto-Pamean–Chinantec
- Oto-Pamean
  - Otomí
  - Mazahua
  - Matlatzinca
  - Tlahuica
  - Chichimeco Jonaz
  - Pame
- Chinantec — Chinantec

Otomanguean

Eastern Otomanguean

Amuzgo–Mixtecan
- Mixtecan
  - Trique
  - Cuicatec
  - Mixtec
- Amuzgo — Amuzgo

Popolocan–Zapotecan
- Zapotecan
  - Chatino
  - Zapotec
- Popolocan
  - Ngigua (Popoloca)
  - Ngigua (Chocho)
  - Ixcatec
  - Mazatec

Source: Campbell 2017 based on Kaufman 1988

Diversity
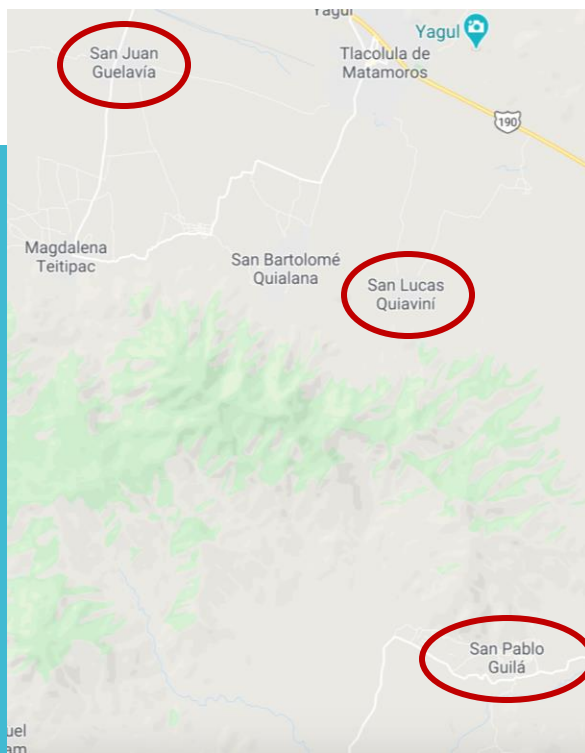## within a five-hour drive

- San Lucas Quiaviní

  - **nnyi'ihs** 'water'
  - **nnyi'sgyihah.** 'rain'
  - **gueht** 'tortilla'

- Diidxazá (Isthmus Zapotec)

  - **nisa** 'water'
  - **nisa gie** 'rain'
  - **gueta** 'tortilla'

Western Valley Zapotec languages

Tons of diversity within a 30-minute drive!

Source: Munro 2003	San Lucas Quiaviní	San Juan Guelavía (Jones and Church 1985)	San Pablo Güilá (López Cruz 1997)
FORMALITY	Reverential =ihny / =ni' Formal =ëhb Respectful =ahzh:	Honorific =ny	Animate sacred =ni' Respectful human =bá
AGE / DEGREE OF CLOSENESS		Male > male =ll / =llɨ Human relative =b / =bɨ Child =by	Trustworthy human (male) =sà' Human relative =bí
PROXIMATE/ DISTAL	Proximate =ëng Distal =ih		
ANIMACY	Animal/child =ëhmm	Inanimate =ni Animal =m / mɨ	Inanimate =ní Animal=má

Background

ODE multi-phase effort in 2020 to revise the language code list to include languages of
- Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes
- Oregon students from Mexico and Guatemala who speak Mesoamerican languages

The Language Revitalization Lab developed pro-bono a fine-grained inventory of language codes for over 150 unique Mesoamerican Indigenous languages
- Additions reported in the Language Code Updates 20-21

New Language Codes for the 2020-21 School Year

Code	Language
5025	Aguacateco
5090	Akateco
5020	Alsea
5040	Cakchiquel, Central
5045	Cakchiquel, Eastern
5050	Cakchiquel, Mam
5055	Cakchiquel, Northern
5060	Cakchiquel, Santa María de Jesus
5065	Cakchiquel, Santo Domingo
5070	Cakchiquel, Southern
5075	Cakchiquel, Southwestern
5080	Cakchiquel, Western
5017	Chinook
5105	Chuj
5700	Coos
5015	Dee-Ni
6580	Farsi
5705	Ichischkin
5710	Kalapuya
5035	Kaqchikel
5085	K'iche'
5715	Kiksht
5720	Klamath
5725	Klickitat
5730	Maklaks
5030	Mam
5735	Miluk
5200	Mixtec
5300	Mixtec, Alacatlatzala
5305	Mixtec, Alcozauca
5205	Mixtec, Amoltepec
5325	Mixtec, Apasco-Apoala

Code	Language
5400	Mixtec, Itundujia
5225	Mixtec, Ixtayutla
5230	Mixtec, Jamiltepec
5380	Mixtec, Juxtlahuaca
5405	Mixtec, Magdalena Peñasco
5310	Mixtec, Metlatónoc
5260	Mixtec, Mitlatongo
5410	Mixtec, Northern Tlaxiaco
5210	Mixtec, Northwest Oaxaca
5415	Mixtec, Ocotepec
5265	Mixtec, Peñoles
5245	Mixtec, Pinotepa Nacional
5235	Mixtec, San Juan Colorado
5420	Mixtec, San Juan Teita
5425	Mixtec, San Miguel El Grande
5275	Mixtec, San Miguel Piedras
5430	Mixtec, Santa Lucía Monteverde
5250	Mixtec, Santa María Zacatepec
5215	Mixtec, Silacayoapan
5280	Mixtec, Sindihui
5435	Mixtec, Sinicahua
5330	Mixtec, Southeastern Nochixtlán
5370	Mixtec, Southern Puebla
5440	Mixtec, Southwestern Tlaxiaco
5335	Mixtec, Soyaltepec
5445	Mixtec, Tacahua-Yolotepec
5285	Mixtec, Tamazola
5390	Mixtec, Tezoatlán
5350	Mixtec, Tidaá
5450	Mixtec, Tijaltepec
5295	Mixtec, Tlazoyaltepec
5240	Mixtec, Tututepec

Pilot project objectives

1. **Pilot program guide**

2. **Training workshops** for ODE/school staff about the linguistic diversity of Mesoamerican languages

3. Consultations
   - To inform the guide and workshops
   - To gauge their efficacy

4. Make recommendations to ODE for improved, comprehensive strategies for the documentation of languages of origin

Consultations and training

SCOPE OF WORK	REACH
Consultations with **Agency internal staff and with District Pilot Partners**	9 districts: Bend-LaPine Administrative SD 1, Gresham-Barlow SD 10J, Hermiston SD 8, Hillsboro SD 1J, North Clackamas SD 12, Reynolds SD 7, Salem-Keizer SD 24J, South Lane, Umatilla
Training for participants on the use of the guide	27 participants
Consultation to collect **qualitative feedback on the guide**	5 survey responses, 7 participants
Consultations with multilingual **Mesoamerican families**	Two stages: (i) 20 families, (ii) 7 families Guerrero and Oaxaca Mixtec, Zapotec, Quechua Eugene, Springfield, and Creswell

Parent hopes

How can schools be more inclusive?

◦ Have people (staff) who are familiar with our culture

What can make you comfortable and willing to share or identify your language?

◦ "We feel very proud of our language and we want people to know about our language...They should know that we not only speak Spanish, we also know our own language. They do not know we also have our own language."

What would you change from your personal experience regarding communication and inclusion with your child's school?

◦ We understand that they do not know or have training about the small towns of Mexico and that not all people speak Spanish.

Pilot program guide

1. The importance of acknowledging your students' heritage languages

2. Mesoamerican languages

3. Best practices in Language of Origin data collection

4. Mesoamerican languages key

At a glance

◦ 9 Mayan languages

◦ 52 Mixtec languages

◦ 30 Nahuan languages

◦ 2 Purepecha languages

◦ 3 Triqui languages

◦ 57 Zapotec languages

67 maps

Focus on response to **State of Oregon Bridge Language Use Survey**, Question 2

zpv Chichicapan Zapotec

ztu Güilá Zapotec

zab San Juan Guelavía Zapotec

San Juan Guelavía Zapotec

Güilá Zapotec

Chichicapan Zapotec

Eligibility for Language Development Support
This section helps the school identify if your child should be assessed to receive support in academic English instruction.

2. What is the primary language(s) used to communicate in your home?

_San Juan Guelavía Zapotec (ISO zab), we call it dizhsah and we are from San Lucas Quiavini, Oaxaca, Mexico_____

Contextual information

Mesoamerican languages and Linguistic Diversity

Where is Mesoamerica? Mesoamerica extends from the northern regions of Central America through the central regions of Mexico. Mesoamerica is considered as a region of shared cultural and linguistic traits, yet it is a region with tremendous diversity in both respects. Figure 1 below shows an approximation of the geographic extension of Mesoamerica and of the languages in the region.

Figure 1. Approximate extension of Mesoamerica and languages used in the region

Accessible information

Language names with variants and ISO codes

Maps for geography-based way-finding

Accessible historical and linguistic information of interest

MAYAN LANGUAGES

What you need to know

- The terms Mayan refers to a language family, not to a single language.
- The family of Mayan languages are concentrated in what are now Belize, Guatemala and the South of Mexico. Huastec is the northernmost Mayan language located in the northern half of Mexico.
- There are some thirty distinct Mayan languages.
- Mayan languages can be traced back to an ancestral form dating back to at least 2200 BCE.
- A Mayan hieroglyphic writing system was in use for some 2,000 years prior to the arrival of European settlers.

Registering students

- Mayan languages spoken in what is now Guatemala have broadly accepted labels which may facilitate the identification of a family's language.
- The Mayan languages in this key are listed in alphabetical order based on the label used by the Glottolog. However, there are many spelling variants for all of the languages. A list of spelling variants is included below the Glottolog language label.
- The list of Mayan languages presented in this key is limited to nine Mayan languages known to be spoken in the state of Oregon. Please walk through the list of language tables and maps with the family to identify their language. Always remember to ask the family to also write down the name of the language as they refer to it, along with the town, district or municipality, state and country that they are from.
- If a family speaks a Mayan language that is not in this list, or if a family's language cannot be identified with precision, ask the family to write down the name of their language as they would refer to it and the town, municipality, district, state and country they are from.

KANJOBAL-JACALTEC LANGUAGES

| knj | Akateco |
| | *Acateco* |

| jac | Popti' |
| | *Popty, Jakaltek, Jacaltec, Abxubal, Jacalteca, Jacalteco, Jakalteka, Jakalteko, Popti'* |

| kjb | Q'anjob'al |
| | *Kanjobal, Canjobal, Qanjabal, Kanjoval, Conjobal, Canjubal, Conob, Kangobal, Kanhobal, Kanjobal, Kanjubal, K'anjobal, Qanjobal, Q'anjob'al, Q'anjob'al, Solomero, Sulumeco* |

Useful information

KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR NAVIGATING EACH LANGUAGE FAMILY DURING REGISTRATION

Registering students

- Ask whether the family is from the states of Oaxaca, Puebla, or Guerrero in Mexico.
- If the family is from Guerrero, find the table below for Guerrero Mixtec.
- If the family is not from Guerrero, ask whether they might be speakers of Amoltepec Mixtec, Mixtepec Mixtec or Tezoatlán Mixtec.
- If the family is not from Guerrero, ask which of the regions listed below the family might be from. Find the tables for the selected

GUERRERO MIXTEC - Lenguas Mixtecas en el estado de Guerrero

mim	Alacatlatzala Mixtec	*Select this language for the communities of Alacatlatzala, Atlamajalcingo del Monte, Cuatzoquitengo, Plan de Guadalupe (off map), Potoichan and Tototepec*
xta	Alcozauca Mixtec	*Select this language for Alcozauca Mixtec, Petlacalancingo Mixtec and Xochapa Mixtec*
mxv	Metlatónoc Mixtec	
xty	Yoloxochitl Mixtec	

Guide feedback

Immediate impact!

Guide was presented to district staff on August 13 and 14, 2020

Minutes after one of these sessions,
a new family arrived at a participant's school to register

The participant was able to chat with the family
using the information from this guide

The father had originally only listed Spanish as a home language

The participant was able to work with the father to add the family's Mesoamerican language to the student record

Parent feedback –*access to information*

HOW DO SCHOOLS PROVIDE INFORMATION TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

◦ *People from school just have the papers on tables and they direct us to the table with little or no-instructions.*

◦ *Usually, at the time we go to school, people are very busy and sometimes they hand a bunch of paper to us. (no instructions at all/usually at the beginning of school year)*

IS THE INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE OR EASY TO UNDERSTAND?

◦ *They need to explain better how to fill up some of the information. Most of the time when they take time to explain, we understand.*

◦ *Documents are confusing if they do not have the time to explain to us how to fill them up.*

◦ *Sometimes the words in the documents are not easy to understand.*

Parent feedback *–pilot guide*

Written materials
- ◦ *"Documents are confusing if they do not have the time to explain to us how to fill them up."*
- ◦ *"Sometimes the words in the documents are not easy to understand."*

Response: Maps as effective visual aids
- ◦ Maps allowed parents to find their towns of origin; **this generated excitement!**

Language of communication
- ◦ Most parents interviewed speak Spanish as a second language
- ◦ Two of them learned Spanish as adults in the USA (at LCC Eugene)

Parent feedback *–pilot guide*

Inclusive effort

◦ All Mesoamerican languages should be included in any future guide/resource

  ◦ Language Code Updates 20-21 was updated with 150+ languages, about half of existing Mesoamerican languages

◦ Languages other than Mesoamerican languages also need to be documented, ex. Quechua

  ◦ Instructions on how to fill out the Bridge Language form allow for this at this time but codes are not available

District partner feedback

To increase impact
- Resource materials for parents beyond the written format, ex. video and visuals to support in-person interaction
- Hillsboro participant of K'iche' Maya experience points to the need for more resources for teachers
  - To support EL/Latinx programming.
  - Help foster trust
  - Educate the educators!
- ...and to the need to build trust/based relations with children and their families

To increase access to information
- Dedicated webpage on ODE website

Recommendations – *meaningful resources*

1. Improved, comprehensive language of origin codes list

2. Asynchronous video resources
   - For school staff with outreach to front desk staff, and ELL and other teachers
   - For parents in Spanish and, over time, Mesoamerican languages

3. Improved graphic design and layout of guides in consultation with users, especially parents

4. Curricular materials for practical classroom use

5. Dedicated resource webpage on ODE website

xtyozen yuad
(Quiaviní Zapotec)

xquixepe' laatu
(Isthmus Zapotec)

ndzi ve'e ndo
(Silacayoapan Mixtec)

THANK YOU