Engaging multiple stakeholders in improving schools

Stakeholder	Action steps to improve schools for English learners
Administrator	Provide an orientation for parents on how to navigate the school system.
	Develop a buddy system to support families new to the community and school.
	Implement study groups and invite families to be a part of professional development.
	 Conduct an asset inventory and identify resources available to assist schools and students.
Classroom teacher	 Engage in collaboration across the school to support bilingual student achievement.
	 Provide opportunities for parents to assist with projects, such as field-based research.
	 Invite parents to be language models and instructors for students in the classroom.
	 Talk with parents about how they can support students' learning in the classroom.
	 Use a critical language awareness instructional approach in the classroom.
Resource teacher	 Support bilingual students' social, cultural, linguistic, and academic growth
	 Engage in constant collaboration with classroom teachers.
	 Facilitate professional development regarding the needs of bilingual
	students.
Librarian	Ensure that texts are available to all students, including literature that is
	culturally relevant and written in students' native languages.
	Survey students for their interests and stock library with related texts and
	resources.
Counselor	Ensure ample support of students transitioning from different schooling
	contexts.
	Identify effective mentors in the school to partner with students who need
	support.
	Provide support to immigrant parents to navigate the new and unknown
	school system.
Advisor	Create and maintain a family-like climate among classrooms and learning communities.
	 Select activities to allow students to feel safe and share experiences and
	aspirations.
	 Build relationships with students' families through regular phone calls and
	conferences.
Parent	> Offer modes of communication to your child's teachers, counselor, and
	advisor.
	Communicate frequently with school personnel.
	Be proactive to engage in your child's education and schooling.
University	Reach out to schools and promote mutually beneficial relationships.
Partner	 Help schools connect with community organizations to start pertinent and
	effective initiatives, such as mentoring programs for students.
Community	Reach out to schools to find out how your organization can assist and
member	support the school mission, vision, and instructional plan for bilingual
	student achievement.

Heineke, A. J., Coleman, E., Ferrell, E. & Kersemeier, C. (2012). Opening doors for bilingual students: Recommendations for building linguistically responsive schools. *Improving Schools*, *15*(2) 130 – 147.