

Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) serves a diverse community of 50,000 students, where families speak more than 100 languages and dialects. To address the unique needs of our families, the CCPS Office of Communications and Community Engagement embarked on a strategic initiative to deliver vital safety and security messages in multiple languages. The primary goal was to ensure our schools could effectively communicate critical information, such as lockdown procedures, the dangers of making threats, and State-mandated training for parents, to all stakeholders regardless of their primary language. Understanding that language barriers could hinder comprehension and action, we turned to innovative technology to enhance communication. After conducting research on the most common languages spoken by our families using our Student Information System, we identified 7 languages to target in our initial video translations: Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, and Portuguese. We selected HeyGen, an AI-powered video translation platform, based on its high accuracy in delivering precise translations. With this technology, we created a series of videos that deliver key safety messages in English and six of our high-need languages. We used a human presenter for Haitian-Creole since that language was not available through HeyGen. The implementation of this video series was carefully planned. A disclaimer was included at the start of each video in which AI was used to ethically inform viewers about the use of translation technology and ensure transparency: "This video has been created using video translation technology to support students and staff who speak languages other than English. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, some translations may not be perfect. Thank you for understanding and for watching." For the videos using AI, we made sure native speakers of those languages reviewed the videos. By using this technology, we empowered our schools to reach a broad range of families while saving valuable staff time. The videos were distributed to school administrators across the district as essential resources, with tracking in place to monitor their usage and impact. We continue to evaluate the success of the project through follow-up discussions with administrators. Feedback revealed that while the videos were well received, there was a need to remind administrators about their availability. The CCPS Senior Director of Safety and Security reported that the video series has reduced the time staff previously spent explaining

these messages to students, freeing up resources and making schools run more efficiently. We plan to reintroduce the video series at the start of the new school year, further encouraging greater engagement from schools, staff, and parents. The impact of this initiative is clear: students, staff, and families who speak languages other than English now have a deeper understanding of important safety and security messages, promoting a safer and more inclusive school environment. By leveraging AI translation technology, CCPS has enhanced communication, improved school efficiency, and fostered a greater sense of security within our diverse community.