

Case study: Empowering multilingual learners with Sora



Weber School District | November 2025

THE CHALLENGE

Located in northern Utah, Weber School District serves a substantial multilingual student population, of which four percent are English Language Learners (ELLs) and a growing number are dual language immersion students.

While the district offered physical books in Spanish and Chinese, students who spoke other languages – like Portuguese or French – often struggled to find reading resources that supported their learning.

THE SOLUTION: SORA + UTAH DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION COLLECTION

To bridge this gap, Weber School District adopted the Sora student reading platform, along with the Utah Dual Language Immersion digital library, which is part of a statewide program designed to offer students bilingual learning experiences. This combination gave students instant access to thousands of high-interest ebooks and audiobooks in multiple languages and at varying reading levels.

For educators like Amy Hall, Library Technology Specialist at Roy Junior High School (RJHS), these multilingual options have been a game-changer.

“The dual language library is the best tool that we have used,” says Hall. “The library provides reading materials in many different languages at many different levels. If students want to check out a picture book or a book that they may imagine is for younger readers, they can check out the materials on Sora and they can do that without the entire class knowing what they are reading.”

USING SORA TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE LEARNING

- **Direct engagement:** Hall visits ELL and dual language immersion classrooms to demonstrate Sora and help students add the Utah Dual Language Immersion library.
- **Teacher collaboration:** Assignments are designed to integrate Sora, encouraging students to read in the language they’re studying.
- **Student choice:** At RJHS, students have time set aside each day for silent student reading. With Sora, students can easily return books that don’t interest them and find something new within a few minutes – a process that can take days with physical copies.

“It’s so great to be able to offer great reading materials to all students, no matter what language helps them learn.”



Amy Hall

Library Technology Specialist
Roy Junior High School (UT)

THE IMPACT

- **Increased engagement:** Many English learners start with books in their native language and gradually transition to English-language titles, such as graphic novels and novels in verse, to improve proficiency.

- **Empowered learners:** Access to diverse, age-appropriate content helps students build confidence and develop a love for reading.
- **Positive feedback:** “At first most of the learners are hesitant to try ebooks,” says Hall. “Once students see the offerings, the relevant titles and the wide range of text difficulty, they love using Sora and they show their peers the resource.”

ADVICE FOR OTHER DISTRICTS

When asked about the advice she would give to fellow educators, Hall’s recommendation is to think big – bigger than the district, that is.

“I would tell districts to use a dual language library sponsored by the state,” she says. “(They’ll) curate the best materials for multilingual learners. Then teachers and librarians can spend their time and resources on helping students.”

WHY IT WORKS: KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Tailored multilingual content:** Schools in Utah - like RJHS - can use the statewide collection to support a broad range of language needs at every reading level.
- **Flexible access to more reading choice:** Students can find books that interest them within minutes.
- **Formats students love:** Learners can choose from audiobooks, fiction, nonfiction, magazines and comics.

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