

# Real-Time Translation in Live Presentations

Comparing how Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Slides make learning materials accessible for English Language Learners through real-time translation.

## Objective

The goal of this paper to assess the built-in effectiveness and ability of digital presentation tools to translate spoken presentations in real time using Microsoft Windows\* 11 and Google Chrome\* OS (e.g., the Chromebook\* solution) – the two most common operating systems in K-12 education.

## Key Findings

1. Microsoft 365 solutions such as Microsoft PowerPoint\* include Live Presentations, a feature that allows viewers to connect to the presentation and select a translation language for the presenter's speech that provides real-time transcription in the chosen language.
2. Google Slides\* does not include native transcription beyond English. Users must open multiple windows – one for Slides and one for Google Translate\* – to approximate real-time spoken translation.
3. Both Live Presentations in PowerPoint and Google Slides allow students to access the presentation using any mobile device by using a shortened link while Live Presentation adds the extra ability to simply scan a QR code to access learning materials.
4. The self-selecting translations provided by Live Presentations in PowerPoint allows greater choice and a higher level of built-in accessibility than the combined translation solution of Google Slides and Translate.

<sup>1</sup>Source: [National Education Association](#)

## Conclusion

By providing students the ability to select their own translation language directly within the same PowerPoint presentation as their teacher's, Live Presentations offers the 5 million English Language Learners in U.S. K-12 schools a simple and robust solution that grants them access to learning in over 50 language options. While the Google Workspaces for Education\* equivalent, Google Slides, offers built-in transcription, the captioning tool is limited to English, which while helpful to represent spoken instruction, does not meet the translation needs of ELLs – accounting for approximately 10% of U.S. schools.<sup>1</sup>

Given the continued growth of the English Language Learners population in U.S. K-12 schools, it is imperative that school systems provide educators and students with the tools and resources needed to remove barriers and help increase access to learning materials. Live Presentations in PowerPoint provide unmatched translation services.



Download a copy of the full report including a step-by-step description and analysis of Windows 11 and Chromebook tools from the K-12 Blueprint.

[k12blueprint.com/learning-next](https://k12blueprint.com/learning-next)

