

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, JULIA MEJIA AND RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, ARROYO, BREADON, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, MURPHY AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS HOW BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE PARENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, Students who speak English as a second language or English Language Learners (ELL) are one of the fastest growing groups of students in Massachusetts' schools with approximately 32 percent of all Boston Public School (BPS) students being ELL; *and*

WHEREAS, ELL students need more specialized educational assistance in order to meet Massachusetts educational standards, and are eight percentage-points less likely to enroll in college compared to college applicants who speak English as their primary language; *and*

WHEREAS, Parents of ELL students, for the most part, do not speak English proficiently, or at all, which leads to language barriers between parents of BPS students, negatively impacting their ability to assist their children in the realm of pedagogy; *and*

WHEREAS, Parental language barriers significantly relate to the use of community resources, and parents that are positioned within historically marginalized and disenfranchised groups in the school or community are often connected to other parents in similar situations, nor are they perceived to have the socio-economic status to be seen as equals by school staff; *and*

WHEREAS, Studies show that the most highly reported barriers to parental involvement for parents of ELL students are language barriers, lack of knowledge about the U.S. educational system, not wanting to interfere with how teachers do their jobs, and stress from other responsibilities; *and*

WHEREAS, Parental educational involvement has been widely studied as one of the most important predictors of school success, and parental involvement in leadership and policy-related activities depends on parents' perceived sense of voice or empowerment; *and*

WHEREAS, All parents of Boston Public School students with limited English proficiency have the right to receive essential school information in their preferred language of communication; *and*

WHEREAS, The BPS system should do all that is in their capacity to ensure that ELL students, or English as second language students are able to succeed in their educational endeavors at the same rate as their peers whose primary language is English; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools have several programs and committees related to assisting parents of ELL students; *and*

WHEREAS, In order for all students to realize their full potential, their parents or guardians need to participate in their education, so BPS needs to be effectively assisting parents or guardians of English language learner students and empowering their voice to ensure that ELL students can fully take advantage of their education:
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss how the Boston Public School system is effectively addressing the needs of the parents of students whose primary language is not English, and that the appropriate representative of Boston Public Schools, the Chief of Equity and Inclusion, the Mayor's Senior Advisor for Youth and Schools, the Executive Director of the Department of Language and Communication Access, the Executive Director of the Department of Immigrant Advancement, and any other relevant entities, community stakeholders, and others, be invited to participate in said hearing.

Filed on: January 25th, 2023